SUMMARY OF THE 1997 U.S. NORTH AND SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TROLL FISHERIES[1]

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INTRODUCTION

North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) are taken by fisheries from various nations (Table 1). Japan is the largest harvester, annually taking 74% of the North Pacific albacore landed by all nations, while the U.S. annually takes less than 20%. U.S. troll vessels have fished for albacore in the North Pacific since the early 1900's (Clemens and Craig, 1965). The collection of logbook and length-frequency data from the U.S. North Pacific albacore troll fishery began in 1951. The agencies involved in the voluntary collection of logbook, length-frequency, and landings information from the U.S. albacore troll fisheries are the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA), Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and the state fisheries agencies of California, Oregon, and Washington. Larger troll vessels with increased carrying capacity and range have joined the U.S. North Pacific fleet during the past forty years, and are fishing areas offshore and west of the International Dateline. In recent years the North Pacific season has begun as early as mid-April in areas northwest of Midway Island. In July and August, the fleet fishes near 45°N, 150°W and along the West Coast from Vancouver Island to California. Fishing can continue into November if weather permits and sufficient amounts of albacore remain available to troll gear.

Japan takes the largest proportion of albacore harvested annually in the South Pacific (average of 41%). The U.S. annually takes 2% of the total landings of South Pacific Albacore. Exploratory troll fishing for albacore in areas east of New Zealand in 1986 resulted in the development of the U.S. South Pacific troll fishery (Laurs et al., 1987). The collection of logbook, landings, and length-frequency data from the U.S. South Pacific fishery began in 1987, just after that fishery's inception. This fishery takes place during the austral summer months (December through April). U.S. troll vessels that participate in the South Pacific fishery depart from the U.S. West Coast or Hawaii after the end of the North Pacific season and travel to American Samoa or French Polynesia to prepare for the South Pacific season. South Pacific fishing areas extend from the east coast of New Zealand to approximately 110°W between 25°S and 45°S. At the end of the season (in March or April), most vessels unload in Pago Pago,

American Samoa then travel to Hawaii or the U.S. West Coast to prepare for the next North Pacific fishing season.

This report presents summaries of the logbook (catch/effort), landings and length-frequency information collected from the 1997 North Pacific and the 1996-97 South Pacific albacore seasons. Data from the 1996 North Pacific season, 1995-96 South Pacific season, and from non-U.S. albacore fisheries (where available) are included for comparison.

DATA COLLECTED

Total annual landings data from the various fisheries that catch albacore in the Pacific Ocean are available from 1952 to 1997 (Tables 1 and 2). The SWFSC collects landings, logbook and length-frequency information from the two U.S. Pacific albacore troll fisheries and sea surface temperature (SST) information for the North Pacific fishery. Direct landings and at-sea transshipments are provided by the WFOA and collected from state landings receipts submitted by fish buyers and canneries. Daily catch and effort data are obtained from completed copies of the *U.S. Pacific Albacore Logbook*, that are voluntarily submitted by fishermen, or completed by port samplers who collect the information from cooperating fishermen. Approximately 620 logbooks were distributed to albacore fishermen for the 1997 North Pacific and the 1996-97 South Pacific albacore seasons. Length-frequency data from the 1997 North Pacific season were collected by one NMFS biologist aboard a U.S. troll vessel and by port samplers in the ports of Westport and Ilwaco, Washington, Astoria, Newport, and Coos Bay, Oregon, Crescent City, Eureka, and Terminal Island, California and Pago Pago, American Samoa.

North Pacific sea surface temperatures (SSTs) recorded from commercial transport ships, fishing vessels, and research vessels, were compiled into monthly means and computer-analyzed. Contours of SSTs were drawn with a resolution of 1° latitude-longitude. Analysis of SSTs shows the distribution of isotherms and the locations of ocean fronts (areas of north-south close spacing of isotherms). Insufficient SST information is available from the areas of the South Pacific fishery (east of New Zealand to 110°W and south of 30°S) to make an analysis possible.

LOGBOOK SAMPLING COVERAGE

Logbook sampling coverage is the ratio of landings from sampled trips (those trips from which logbook data were received) to total landings. Landings from sampled trips in some past seasons are not available. For consistent comparison of sampling coverage between current and past seasons, sampled landings are estimated by multiplying numbers of fish caught (recorded in logbooks) by the average weight of those fish and summing these estimates from sampled logbooks.

A total of 499 trips (of approximately 2,100 total trips) were sampled for logbook information during the 1997 North Pacific season. Sampled landings total 5,403 metric tons (t), resulting in a logbook sampling coverage rate of 36%, slightly lower than 45% in 1996 (Table 3).

Logbook data from the 1996-97 South Pacific season were collected from 20 trips of the 37 trips made by U.S. troll vessels. These sampled trips landed 961 t, resulting in a logbook sampling coverage of 69% compared to 48% for the 1995-96 season (Table 4).

LENGTH-FREQUENCY SAMPLING COVERAGE

Length-frequency sampling coverage is the ratio of the number of fish sampled (measured) to the total number of fish landed for the season. The total number of fish landed for the season is estimated by dividing total landings by the average weight of fish landed. The estimated total number of fish landed during the 1997 North Pacific season is 2,138,654 fish. A total of 40,883 albacore were measured, resulting in a length-frequency sampling coverage of 1.9%, nearly the same as 1.8% coverage in the 1996 North Pacific season (Table 3).

Length-frequency data for the 1996-97 South Pacific albacore fishery were collected by port samplers in Pago Pago. Samplers measured 1,558 albacore from troll vessel landings and transshipments, resulting in a length-frequency sampling coverage rate of 0.7%, the same coverage rate as the 1995-96 season (Table 4).

TOTAL EFFORT AND CATCH

Fishing effort in the albacore troll fisheries is measured in number of fishing days. Total fishing effort for the U.S. albacore troll fisheries is estimated by dividing total landings (in pounds) by catch-per-unit effort (in numbers of fish per day) then dividing by average weight (in pounds). Troll vessels fished an estimated 46,492 days during the 1997 North Pacific albacore season, a 57% increase in effort from 29,698 days fished in 1996 (Table 3). This large increase in effort can be attributed to a large influx of vessels from other fisheries (e.g. salmon trollers) into the albacore troll fishery. Total landings from the 1997 North Pacific albacore season decreased to 14,872 t from 15,600 t landed in 1996. Estimated albacore landings by non-U.S. fisheries that target albacore in the North Pacific are listed in Table 1.

Total fishing effort for the 1996-97 South Pacific albacore fishery is estimated to be 2,885 days, a decrease of 37% from 4,551 days fished in the 1995-96 season (Table 4). The significant decrease in effort may be attributed to poor overall production for the last several years in the South Pacific fishery (Table 2). Total U.S. landings for 1996-97 decreased to 1,402 t from 2,186 t landed in 1995-96. Estimated landings by non-U.S. fisheries targeting albacore in the South Pacific are listed in Table 2.

DISTRIBUTION OF CATCHES AND SSTs

Albacore catches recorded during the 1997 North Pacific season extend from the West Coast to 169°E, between approximately 30°N and 50°N. Areas of high catch indicate productive regions where albacore are available to troll gear. Based on sampled logbook data, the highest catch areas for the season were located between 149°W and 159°W from 42°N to 46°N, and between the West Coast and 127°W from Cape Blanco to the Straits of Juan de Fuca (Figure 1). Catch areas recorded by U.S. troll vessels for each month of the 1997 North Pacific season are shaded on corresponding monthly SST contour charts in Figures 2a through 2f. These figures show the relationship between fishing areas, SST fronts and isotherm patterns. Insufficient logbook data are available for the months of April and November to make an analysis possible. High catch areas in May were located north of Midway Island between 31°N and 37°N from 170°W to the International Dateline (Figure 2a). SSTs in this area ranged from 15°C to 18°C (59°F to 64.4°F) and were 1°C to 2°C below normal ("normal" refers to the long-

term mean averaged over the past 20 years). High albacore catches in June extended eastward from 170°W along the southern part of the sub-Arctic ocean front to 140°W between 34°N and 41°N where SSTs ranged from 14°C to 17°C (57.2°F to 62.6°F) and were 2°C to 3°C below normal (Figure 2b). During July, the most productive offshore fishing occurred between 37°N and 46°N from 140°W to 160°W in SSTs ranging from 14°C to 20°C (57.2°F to 68.0°F, Figure 2c), which were 1°C to 2°C below normal. During July, fishing off the West Coast from Cape Blanco to Vancouver Island was in near normal SSTs between 15°C and 16°C (59°F to 60.8°F). Here, SST edges (fronts) associated with coastal upwelling were prominent ocean features along the coasts of California and Oregon from June to October. High catches in August were located between 140°W and 162°W from 42°N to 47°N and between the West Coast and 128°W from Cape Mendocino to Vancouver Island (Figure 2d). SSTs ranged from 14°C to 16°C (57.2°F to 60.8°F) in the offshore area and from 15°C to 17°C (59°F to 62.6°F) in the coastal area. SSTs were near normal offshore and 1°C to 2°C above normal in the coastal fishing areas. High albacore catches in September were also distributed in the coastal and offshore areas (Figure 2e). The most productive albacore fishing in the coastal areas ranged from Point Conception to Vancouver Island and was in SSTs near 15°C (59°F) to the north and 19°C (66.2°F) to the south. SSTs were 1°C to 2°C above normal along the West Coast. The offshore catch area between 148°W and 158°W from 40°N to 47°N was in near normal SSTs between 15°C and 18°C (59°F to 64.4°F). Catch data from October indicated the best catches along the coast were between Monterey Bay and Point Conception in 16°C to 19°C (60.8°F to 66.2°F) water that was about 2°C above normal (Figure 2f). Offshore catches in October were between 150°W and 156°W from 39°N to 41°N where SSTs were 17°C (62.6°F).

Albacore catches recorded during the 1995-96 South Pacific season were summarized for the season and for each month by 5° x 5° squares (Figures 3a through 3f). The highest albacore catches of the season were between 145°W and 160°W from 35°S to 45°S (Figure 3a). Most of the fish caught in December 1996 were taken between 155°W and 170°W from 30°S to 40°S (Figure 3b). The areas where most fish were caught in January 1997 are between 145°S and 160°S from 35°S to 40°S (Figure 3c). Catches in February were widely distributed with the highest catches (greater than 4,700 fish per 5° square) between 145°W and 160°W from 35°S to 45°S (Figure 3d). Only one 5° square (between 150°W and 155°W from 40°S to 45°S) in March produced more than 4,770 fish (Figure 3e). The limited logbook data available from April indicates 360 fish were caught between 155°W and 160°W from 40°S to 45°S (Figure 3f).

CATCH-PER-UNIT EFFORT

Catch-Per-Unit Effort (CPUE) is used as an indication of relative abundance of albacore available to troll gear, or a measure of fishing success, and is expressed in numbers of fish caught per day of fishing. Catch (in numbers of fish) and effort (in days fished) were summarized by 10-day, 1°-square strata in which there was at least one day of fishing effort (Kleiber and Perrin, 1991). Average CPUE is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Average CPUE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum^{n}\frac{\sum C_i}{\sum E_i}$$

Where C_i is the total sampled catch in the i^{th} strata, E_i is the total sampled effort in the i^{th} strata, and n is the total number of strata.

CPUE for the North Pacific albacore troll fishery declined by approximately 50% between 1963 and 1990, but has been increasing since 1990 (Figure 4). This increasing trend is strongly influenced by the success of the offshore fishery since the late 1980's. The average CPUE for the 1997 North Pacific season decreased to 46 fish per day from 91 fish per day in the 1996 season (Table 3). This dramatic drop in CPUE was most likely due to the increased effort from new vessels entering the albacore troll fishery from other West Coast fisheries.

CPUE for the U.S. South Pacific troll fishery declined between the 1986-87 and 1992-93 seasons (Figure 5). CPUE then peaked at 150 fish per day in 1994-95. The CPUE for the 1996-97 South Pacific season was 79 fish per day, nearly the same as 71 fish per day in the 1995-96 season1 (Table 4).

CPUEs from the 1997 North Pacific season were summarized (averaged) for the season and each month by 1° x 1° squares (Figures 6a to 6g). Insufficient logbook data were collected for April and November to make an analysis of CPUE distribution for those months possible. The highest CPUEs averaged for the season ranged from 100 to 300 fish per day and were distributed between 150°W and 162°W from 40°N to 47°N (Figure 6a). In May, CPUEs greater than 300 fish per day were distributed between 176°W and 178°E from 35°N to 37°N (Figure 6b). In June, CPUEs from 100 to 317 fish per day were distributed between 142°W and 153°W from 35°N to 42°N (Figure 6c). The highest CPUEs (between 100 and 300 fish per day) in July were distributed between 149°W and 155°W from 41°N to 47°N (Figure 6d). The highest CPUEs in August were located between 152°W and 162°W from 42°N to 47°N (Figure 6e). CPUEs in September were highest between 151°W and 158°W from 40°N to 47°N (Figure 6f). High CPUEs were also scattered off Point Conception in September. Only four 1° squares had CPUEs that exceeded 100 fish per day in October (Figure 6g). They were located between 143°W and 155°W from 40°N to 41°N. Monthly averaged CPUEs were highest in May and lowest in July and October (Figure 7).

CPUEs for the 1996-97 South Pacific season were summarized (averaged) for the season and each month by 5° x 5° squares (Figures 8a through 8f). The highest CPUEs for the 1996-97 season ranged from 100 to 300 fish per day between 155°W and 170°W from 30°S to 40°S (Figure 8a). CPUEs in December 1996 ranged from 100 to 300 fish per day between 155°W and 170°W from 30°S to 40°S (Figure 8b). In January, 1997 the highest CPUEs were scattered between 135°W and 170°W from 35°S to 40°S (Figure 8c). February's highest CPUEs were located between 150°W and 160°W from 40°S to 45°S (Figure 8d). CPUEs between 100 and 300 fish per day in March were located between 145°W and 155°W from 40°S to 45°S (Figure 8e). In April, CPUEs ranging from 1 to 100 fish/day were distributed from 145°W to 160°W from 35°S to 45°S (Figure 8f). Monthly-averaged CPUEs for the 1996-97 South Pacific troll season were highest in December 1996 and decreased as the season progressed (Figure 9).

[1] CPUE values for past seasons may differ from previously published values due to updates in catch/effort data.

LENGTH-FREQUENCIES

Fork lengths (FL) of albacore measured during the 1997 North Pacific season range from 35 cm (2 lb or 0.9 kg) to 115 cm (68 lb or 31.0 kg) and average 70 cm (15 lb or 7.0 kg). The average FL of sampled albacore from the 1996 season is 66 cm (13 lb or 5.9 kg). Three length-frequency modes are evident in the histogram of samples from the 1997 North Pacific season (Figure 10). The most prominent mode is centered near 73 and 74 cm FL (4 years old). Two less prominent modes are centered at 64 cm (3 years old) and 57 cm (2 years old).

Small albacore (less than 60 cm FL) may not be adequately represented in the length-frequency data collected from the 1997 North Pacific fishery. The larger troll vessels that fish further offshore and sell most of their catch to canneries or buying stations (which may pay less for small fish), may release small fish when they are abundant in the catches. The smaller, coastal trollers may sell fish direct to the public or other markets where small fish are preferred. Coastal trollers also spend more time in port during the season so they may retain more small fish than larger offshore vessels.

Albacore FLs measured during the 1996-97 South Pacific season range from 43 cm (4 lb or 1.6 kg) to 100 cm (45 lb or 20.4 kg) and average 67 cm (14 lb or 6.2 kg). The average FL of sampled albacore from the 1995-96 season is 69 cm (15 lb or 6.7 kg). Several length-frequency modes are apparent in the histogram of samples from the 1996-97 season (Figure 10). The most prominent mode is centered at 69 cm (4 years old) FL while the two less prominent modes are centered at 61 cm (3 years old) and 76 cm FL (5 years old).

Length-weight-age conversions for North Pacific albacore and length-weight conversions for South Pacific albacore were taken from "A review of the biology and fisheries for North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)" by Bartoo and Foreman, 1993. Length-age conversions for South Pacific albacore are taken from Labelle, et al., 1993.

SUMMARY

Logbook sampling coverage for the 1997 North Pacific albacore fishery declined to 36% from 45% in 1996. Length-frequency sampling coverage remained nearly the same at 1.9% in 1997. Total effort by U.S. troll vessels in 1997 increased 57% to 46,492 days. U.S. troll vessels landed a total of 14,872 t during the 1997 North Pacific season. The season began in April north of Midway Island and ended in November off the U.S. West Coast. Albacore catch locations ranged from the West Coast to 169°E. The highest reported catches during the season were centered near 44°N, 152°W, and near 45°N, 125°W. The most productive fishing areas followed the sub-arctic ocean front delineated by 15°C and 18°C isotherms (59.0°F and 64.4°F, respectively) in the offshore areas and were found near fronts caused by upwelling in coastal areas. The average CPUE for the 1997 season decreased from 91 fish per day in 1996 to 46 fish per day. The large decrease in CPUE and increase in effort is due to the increased number of vessels from other fisheries that are beginning to target albacore. Season-averaged CPUEs between 100 and 300 fish per day were distributed between 150°W and 162°W from 40°N to 47°N. A total of 40,883 albacore were measured during the 1997 North Pacific season. FLs of sampled albacore range from 35 cm (2 lb or 0.9 kg) to 115 cm (68 lb or 31.0 kg) and averaged 70 cm (15 lb or 7.0 kg). The histogram of length-frequency samples from the 1997 season displays

three modes centered at 73 cm, 64 cm and 57 cm FL. Fish less than 60 cm FL may not be adequately represented in the North Pacific length-frequency samples due to releasing of small fish.

Logbook sampling coverage for the South Pacific albacore troll fishery increased from 48% in the 1995-96 season to 69% in the 1996-97 season. Length-frequency sampling coverage remained the same at 0.7%. Total effort by U.S. troll vessels in the South Pacific decreased 37% to 2,885 days in the 1996-97 season. U.S. troll vessels landed 1,402 t of albacore during the 1996-97 South Pacific season. The 1996-97 season began in December 1996 and ended in April 1997. The most productive areas were between 145°W and 160°W, from 35°S to 45°S. The average CPUE for the 1996-97 season is 79 fish per day, compared to 71 fish per day in the 1995-96 season. CPUEs ranging from 100 to 300 fish per day were distributed between 155°W and 170°W, from 30°S to 40°S. A total of 1,558 albacore were measured during the season. Fork lengths of measured fish range from 43 cm (4 lb or 1.6 kg) to 100 cm (45 lb or 20.4 kg) and averaged 67 cm (14 lb or 6.2 kg). Three modes are centered at 61 cm, 69 cm and 76 cm in the length-frequency histogram of sampled fish.

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Table 1. North Pacific albacore landings (in metric tons) by fisheries, 1952-1997.[1]
Provisional estimates in (). -- indicates data not available. (0) indicates less than 1 metric ton.

YEAR	JAPAN[2]					TAIWAN		KOREA[3]	
	GILL NET	LONG LINE	POLE & LINE	PURSE SEINE	OTHER GEAR	GILL NET	LONG LINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE
1952		26,687	41,786	154	237				
1953		27,777	32,921	38	132				
1954		20,958	28,089	23	38				
1955		16,277	24,236	8	136				
1956		14,341	42,810		57				
1957		21,053	49,500	83	151				
1958		18,432	22,175	8	124				
1959		15,802	14,252		67				
1960		17,389	25,156		76				
1961		17,437	18,636	7	266				
1962		15,764	8,729	53	191				
1963		13,464	26,420	59	218				
1964		15,458	23,858	128	319		26		
1965		13,701	41,491	11	121		261		
1966		25,050	22,630	111	585		271		
1967		28,869	30,481	89	520		635		
1968		23,961	16,597	267	1,109		698		
1969		18,006	32,107	521	1,480		634		
1970		15,372	24,376	317	794		1,516		
1971		11,035	53,198	902	367		1,759		
1972	1	12,649	60,762	277	646		3,091		
1973	39	16,059	69,811	1,353	533		128		
1974	224	13,053	73,576	161	959		570		
1975	166	10,060	52,157	159	254		1,494		2,463
1976	1,070	15,896	85,336	1,109	285		1,251		859
1977	688	15,737	31,934	669	379		873		792
1978	4,029	13,061	59,877	1,115	2,097		284		228
1979	2,856	14,249	44,862	125	1,158		187	0	259
1980	2,986	14,743	46,743	329	1,209	--	318	(6)	597
1981	10,348	18,020	27,426	252	904	--	339	(16)	459
1982	12,511	16,762	29,615	561	732	--	559	(113)	387
1983	6,852	15,103	21,098	350	125	--	520	(233)	454
1984	8,986	15,111	26,015	3,380	518	--	471	(516)	136
1985	11,204	14,320	20,714	1,533	407	--	109	(576)	291
1986	7,813	12,945	16,096	1,542	650	--	--	(726)	241
1987	6,698	14,642	19,091	1,205	189	2,514	--	(817)	182
1988	9,074	13,904	6,216	1,208	177	7,389	38	(1,016)	109
1989	7,437	13,194	8,629	2,521	466	8,350	544	1,023	81
1990	6,064	15,928	8,532	1,995	253	16,701	287	(1,016)	20
1991	3,401	10,379	7,103	2,652	399	3,398	353	(852)	3
1992	2,721	19,149	13,888	4,104	1,534	7,866	300	(271)	43
1993	287	29,616	12,809	2,889	867	0	1,494	0	43
1994	263	29,612	26,391	2,026	799	0	1,586	0	43
1995	282	28,677	20,981	1,177	937	0	3,789	0	43
1996	(282)	(28,677)	(23,383)	(240)	(937)	(0)	(4,596)	(0)	(43)
1997	(282)	(28,677)	(23,383)	(240)	(937)	(0)	(4,596)	(0)	(43)

[1] Data are from the 15th North Pacific Albacore Workshop, December 3-5 1997, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada except as noted.

[2] Japanese pole & line landings include fish caught by research vessels. Longline landings for 1952-1960 exclude minor amounts taken by vessels under 20 metric tons.

[3] Korean longline landings calculated from Y. Gong (pers. comm.) using the ratio of landings, in numbers, from the North Pacific. Gillnet landings for 1979-1990 are calulated by multiplying the 1991 CPUE (# fish per pok) by effort (# poks) then multiplying by average weight (1991, 1992: 4.13 kg/fish).

Table 1. Continued

YEAR	U.S.[4]							CANADA	MEXICO	GRAND TOTAL
	BAIT BOAT	GILL NET	LONG LINE	PURSE SEINE	SPORT	TROLL	OTHER GEAR	TROLL	OTHER GEAR	
1952			48		1,373	23,843		71		94,199
1953			23		171	15,740		5		76,807
1954			13		147	12,246				61,494
1955			9		577	13,264				54,507
1956			6		482	16,751		17		76,464
1957			4		304	21,165		8		92,268
1958			7		48	14,855		74		55,723
1959			5		0	20,990	5	212		51,333
1960			4		557	20,100	4	5		63,271
1961	2,837		5		1,355	12,055	6	4		52,610
1962	1,085		7		1,681	19,752	8	1		47,271
1963	2,432		7		1,161	25,140	7	5		68,913
1964	3,411		4		824	18,388	4	3		62,423
1965	417		3		731	16,542	3	15		73,296
1966	1,600		8		586	15,333	9	44		66,429
1967	4,113		12		707	17,614	12	161		83,413
1968	4,906		11		951	20,434	10	1,028		69,972
1969	2,996		14		358	18,827	12	1,365		76,320
1970	4,416		9		822	21,032	9	390		69,053
1971	2,071		11		1,175	20,526	11	1,746		92,801
1972	3,750		8		637	23,600	8	3,921	100	109,450
1973	2,236		14		84	15,653	14	1,400	0	107,324
1974	4,777		9		94	20,178	9	1,331	1	114,942
1975	3,243		33		640	18,932	43	111	1	89,756
1976	2,700		23		713	15,905	27	278	36	125,488
1977	1,497		37		537	9,969	36	53	0	63,201
1978	950		54		810	16,613	69	23	1	99,211
1979	303				74	6,781	31	521	1	71,207
1980	382				168	7,556	24	212	31	(75,304)
1981	748		25	181	195	12,637	60	200	8	(71,818)
1982	425		105	368	257	6,609	84	104	7	(69,199)
1983	607		6	11	87	9,359	213	225	33	(55,276)
1984	1,030		2	3,551	1,427	9,304	138	50	113	(70,750)
1985	1,498	2		17	1,176	6,415	83	56	49	(58,450)
1986	432	3		48	196	4,708	106	30	3	(45,539)
1987	158	5	149	27	74	2,766	136	104	7	(48,764)
1988	598	15	309	151	64	4,212	318	155	15	(44,968)
1989	54	4	250	23	160	1,860	272	140	2	45,010
1990	115	29	168	71	24	2,603	181	302	2	(54,291)
1991	0	17	313	0	6	1,845	384	139	--	(31,244)
1992	0	0	332	8	2	4,572	408	363	--	(55,561)
1993	--	0	440	1	25	6,254	331	494	--	(55,550)
1994	0	38	548	--	106	10,978	712	836	--	(73,938)
1995	0	40	680	--	102	8,200	1,096	1,415	--	(67,619)
1996	0	54	1,187	--	88	15,600	545	(502)	--	(76,134)
1997	(0)	(66)	(1,856)	(2)	(818)	(14,872)	(675)	(871)	--	(77,318)

[4] U.S. troll boat landings for 1952-1960 include fish caught by bait boats. U.S. troll boat landings for 1984-1988 include gillnet landings. Landings for "Other" gear for 1979-1986 are raised from data with very low coverage.

Table 2. South Pacific albacore landings (in metric tons) by fisheries, 1952-1997.[1]
Provisional estimates in (). -- indicates data not available. (0) indicates less than 1 metric ton

YEAR	JAPAN			TAIWAN		KOREA		U.S.		NEW ZEALAND		FRENCH POLYNESIA	
	GILL NET	LONG[2] LINE	POLE & LINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE	LONG[3] LINE	TROLL[4]	LONG LINE	TROLL	LONG LINE	TROLL
1952		154	-										
1953		803											
1954		9,578											
1955		8,625											
1956		7,281											
1957		8,757											
1958		18,490					146						
1959		17,385					456						
1960		21,638	45				610						
1961		23,412					330						
1962		34,620					599						
1963		29,120	16		608		1,367						
1964		19,390			629		2,911						
1965		17,793			1,640		6,405						
1966		21,627			6,669		10,817						
1967		15,104			11,497		13,717				5		
1968		6,659			12,254		10,138				14		
1969		4,894			9,503		9,963				--		
1970		5,297			14,484		11,599				50	--	
1971		3,472			15,871		14,482				--	--	
1972		3,027			16,674		14,439				268	--	
1973		2,550			17,741		17,452				464	--	
1974		1,868			16,857		12,194				898	--	
1975		1,333			16,056		9,015				646	--	
1976		2,054			13,206		9,058				25	--	
1977		2,328			21,429		11,229				621	--	
1978		2,845			20,702		11,658				1,686	--	
1979		2,274			14,987		11,411				814	--	
1980		2,216	19		17,998		10,449				1,468	--	
1981		4,203	8		14,390		13,342				2,085	--	
1982		4,899	1		12,634		10,769				2,434	--	
1983	32	5,723	2		12,069		7,069	5			744	--	
1984	1,581	3,804			11,155		5,321	9			2,773	--	
1985	1,928	3,868			9,601		13,544	11			3,253	--	
1986	1,936	4,426			11,913		15,877	0	89		1,911	--	
1987	919	4,490			15,009		6,821	0	751		1,227	--	
1988	4,271	7,469		1,000	17,120		6,563	1	3,253		330	--	
1989	13,263	5,828		8,520	10,867	172	5,151	0	3,068	19	5,161	100	90
1990	5,667	6,573		1,859	11,619		3,947	0	3,898	249	2,143	156	327
1991		4,458		1,394	16,508		1,866	1	5,540	325	2,236	146	326
1992		3,814	49		20,956		2,271	0	3,016	706	3,708	195	72
1993		8,381	5		17,701		1,083	0	1,028	229	3,282	714	45
1994		7,151	2		19,731			1	530	473	5,094	913	--
1995		6,326			12,775		8	25	2,072	426	5,760	772	184
1996		3,847			15,244		215	(106)	2,186	480	5,157	1,462	69
1997		(3,847)	--		(15,662)		(845)	(285)	(1,402)	(480)	(5,157)	(2,587)	(24)

[1] Data are from Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, 30 May - 6 June 1998 except as noted. All landings are from areas within the SPAR statistical area except as noted.

[2] Japan long line include catches from Australia-Japan joint venture vessels.

[3] 1982 - 1996 United States long line landings from Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region 1996 Annual Report (Total landings for all gears).

[4] United States troll landings may include catches from December of the previous year.

Table 2. Continued.

YEAR	AUSTRALIA		NEW CALEDONIA	TONGA	FIJI	WESTERN SAMOA	SOLOMON ISLANDS	CHILE[6]	VANUATU	OTHER[7]	GRAND TOTAL
	LONG LINE	TROLL[5]	LONG LINE	LONG LINE	LONG LINE	LONG LINE	LONG LINE	DRIFT NET	LONG LINE	LONG LINE	
1952											154
1953											803
1954											9,578
1955											8,625
1956											7,281
1957											8,757
1958											18,636
1959											17,841
1960											22,293
1961											23,742
1962											35,219
1963											31,111
1964											22,930
1965											25,838
1966											39,113
1967											40,323
1968											29,065
1969		100									24,360
1970		100									31,530
1971		100									33,925
1972		100									34,508
1973		100					4				38,331
1974		100									31,917
1975		100									27,150
1976		100					6				24,449
1977		100					9				35,716
1978		100					9				37,000
1979		100					21				29,607
1980		100					25				32,275
1981		5					2				34,035
1982		6		106			8				30,857
1983		7	12	143			19				25,825
1984		8	112	135			19				24,917
1985	0	9	131	174			12				32,531
1986	0	10	179	206							36,547
1987	129	11	563	252							30,172
1988	107	12	564	242							40,952
1989	93	13	566	195	3						53,109
1990	51	15	1,053	152	68						37,777
1991	213	20	909	171	208						34,331
1992	192	70	692	199	243						36,183
1993	226	55	755	231	463	–				1	34,199
1994	351	70	840	343	547	641				33	36,720
1995	401	25	332	379	864	1,883	204	15	112	46	32,396
1996	408	(25)	414	494	794	2,470	971	(21)	287	(49)	(34,699)
1997	(302)	(25)	(267)	(494)	(1,839)	(2,699)	(971)	(0)	(17)	(35)	(36,959)

[5] Australia troll 1970 - 1980 are incidental catches from pole-and-line vessels targeting southern bluefin tuna. 1981-1985 include recreational catches.

[6] Chile gill net landings from R. Serra (pers. comm.).

[7] Other includes Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, and China. China long line landings from SPC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 1996.

Table 3. Fishery statistics for the 1996 and 1997 U.S. North Pacific albacore troll fisheries.

FISHING SEASON	NO. TRIPS		METRIC TONS LANDED		NO. FISH LANDED		AVG FL (cm)	AVG WT (lb)	EFFORT		CPUE (fish/day)	SAMPLING COVERAGE	
	TOTAL	SAMPLED	TOTAL	SAMPLED	TOTAL	MEASURED			NO. DAYS	NO. VESSELS		LOGBOOK	L-F
1996	1,200	424	15,600	7,000	2,702,510	49,378	66	12.7	29,698	623	91	45%	1.8%
1997	2,100	499	14,872	5,403	2,138,654	40,883	70	15.3	46,492	1,080	46	36%	1.9%

Table 4. Fishery statistics for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 U.S. South Pacific albacore troll fisheries.

FISHING SEASON	NO. TRIPS		METRIC TONS LANDED		NO. FISH LANDED		AVG FL (cm)	AVG WT (lb)	EFFORT		CPUE (fish/day)	SAMPLING COVERAGE	
	TOTAL	SAMPLED	TOTAL	SAMPLED	TOTAL	MEASURED			NO. DAYS	NO. VESSELS		LOGBOOK	L-F
1995-96	44	29	2,186	1,049	324,671	2,226	69	14.8	4,551	62	71	48%	0.7%
1996-97	37	20	1,402	961	227,372	1,558	67	13.6	2,885	28	79	69%	0.7%

Logbook sampling coverage includes some non-U.S. vessels (Tonga, Canada, and Cook Islands) and vessels of unknown registry.

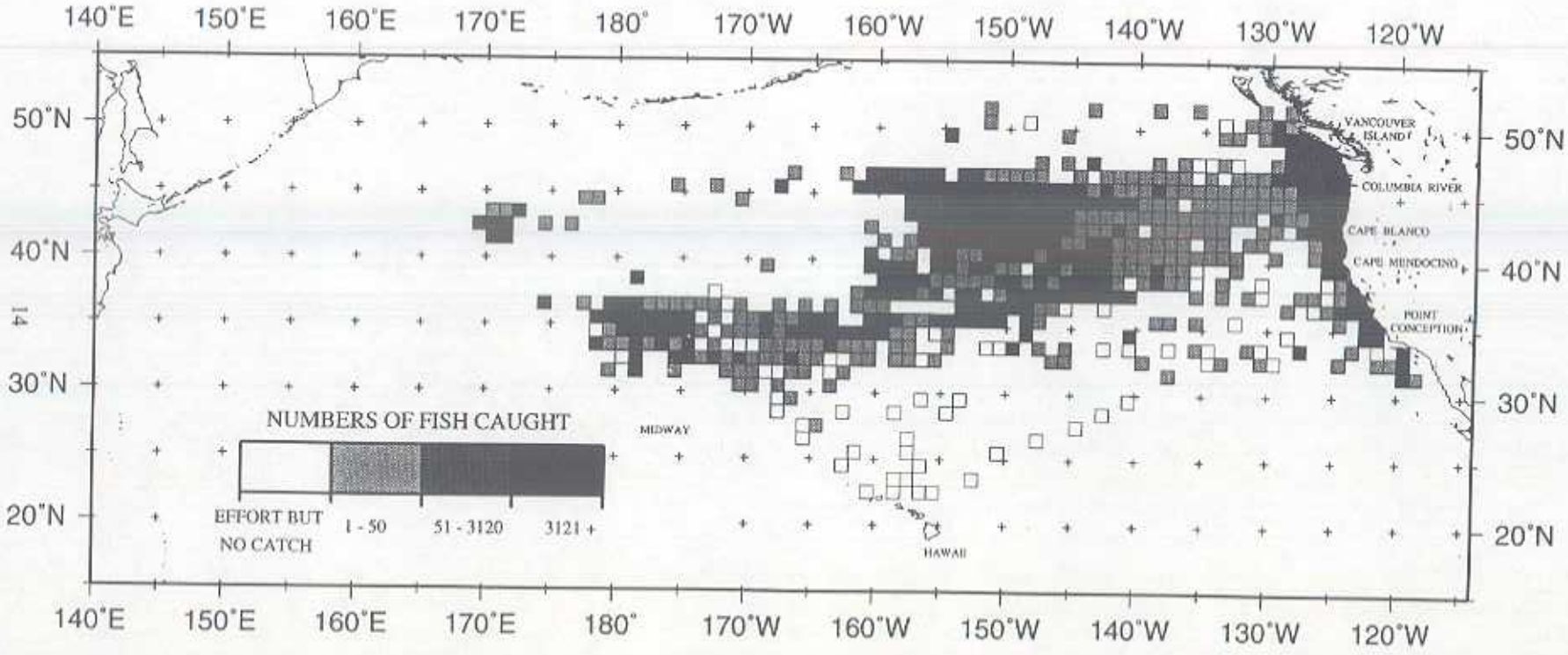

Figure 1. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during the 1997 North Pacific season.

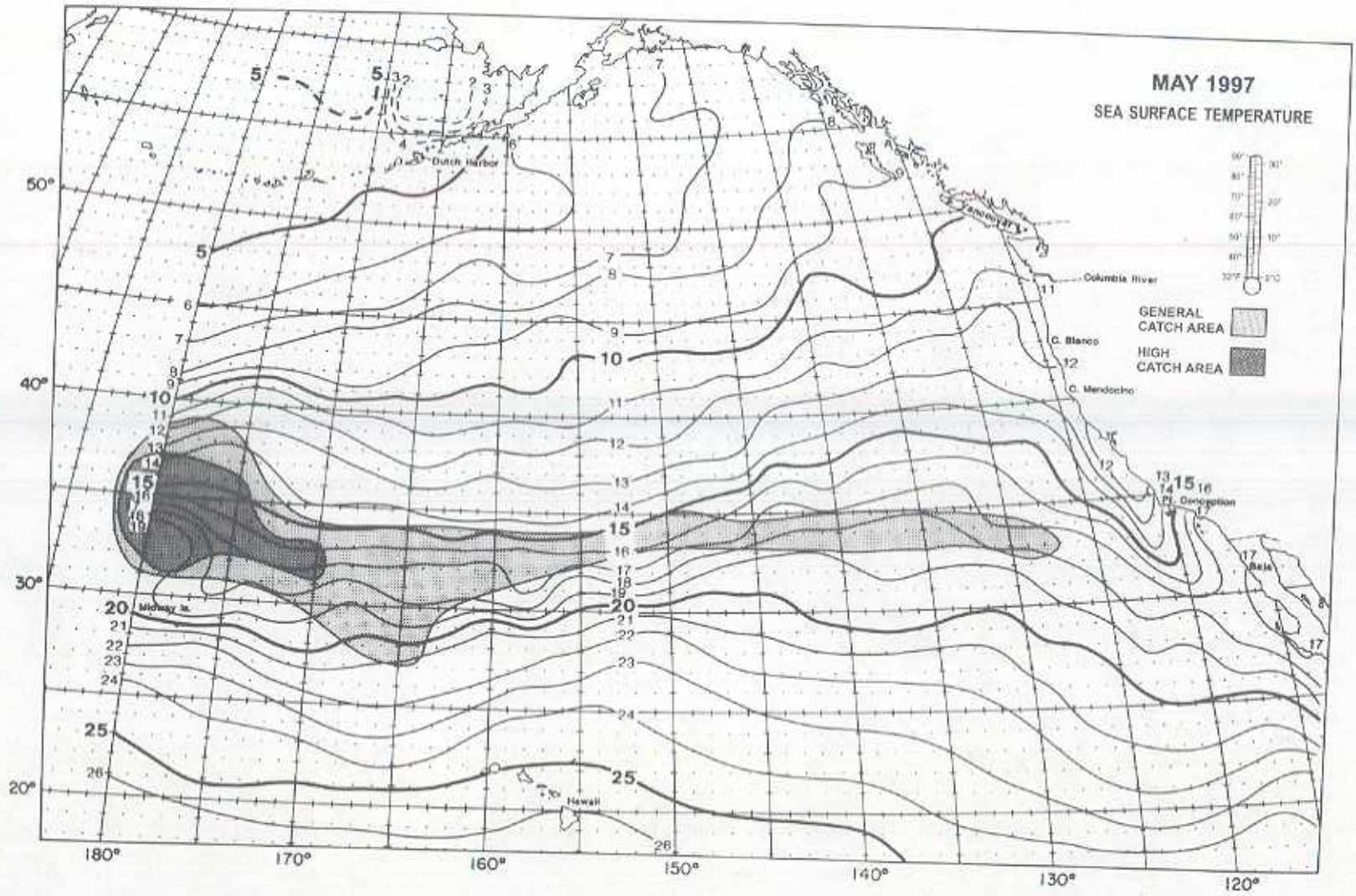

Figure 2a. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in May 1997.

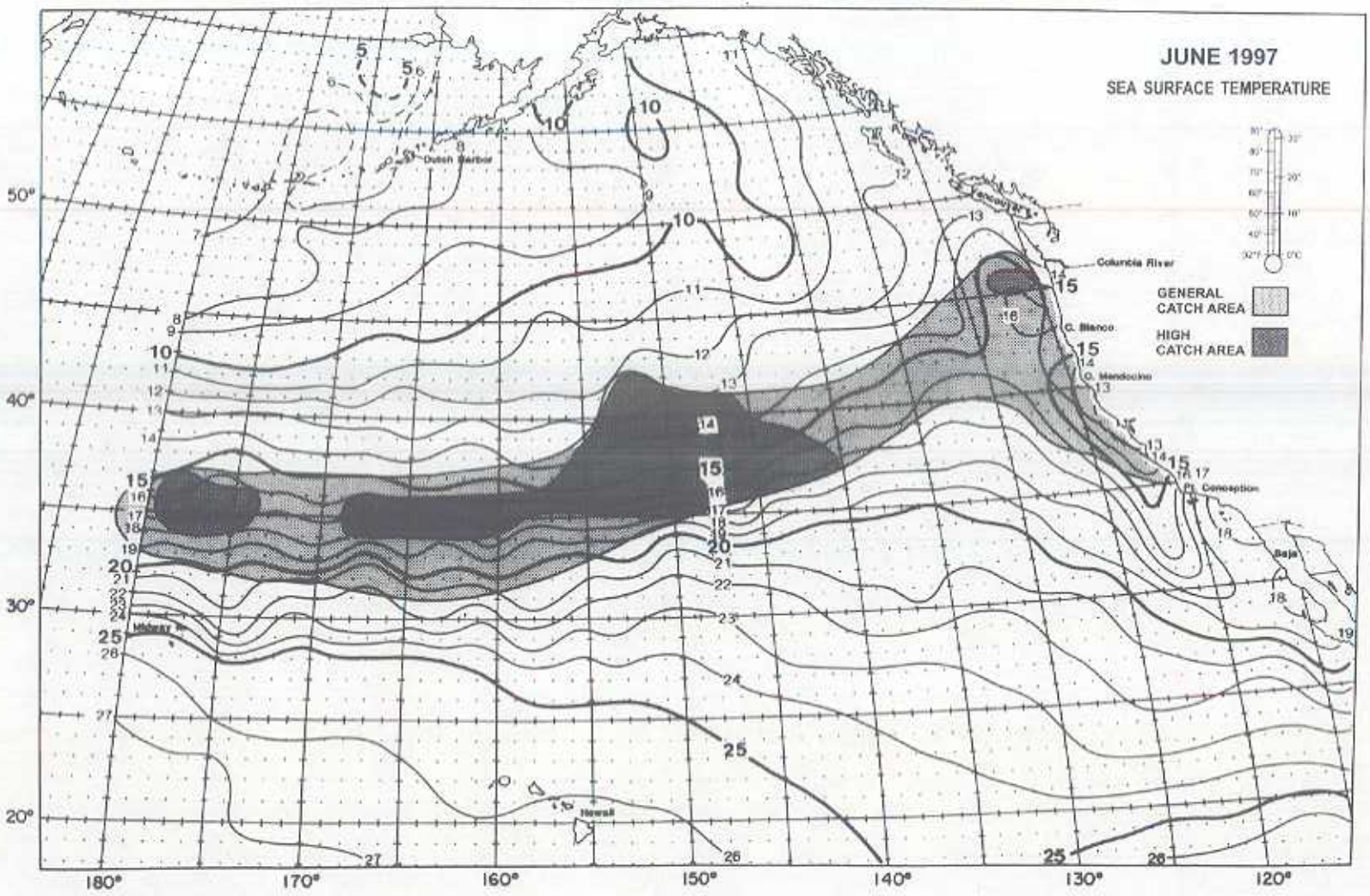

Figure 2b. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in June 1997.

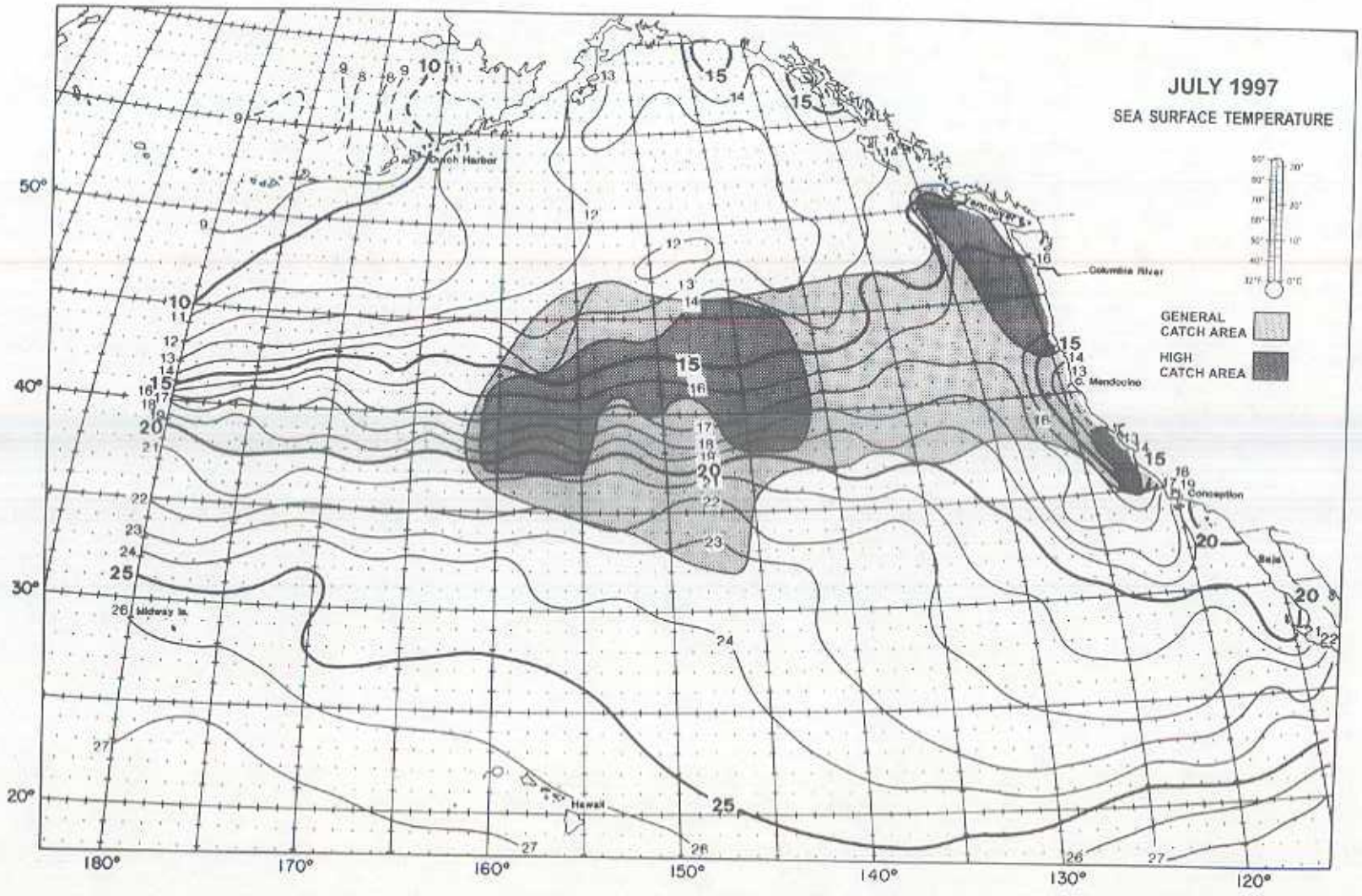

Figure 2c. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in July 1997.

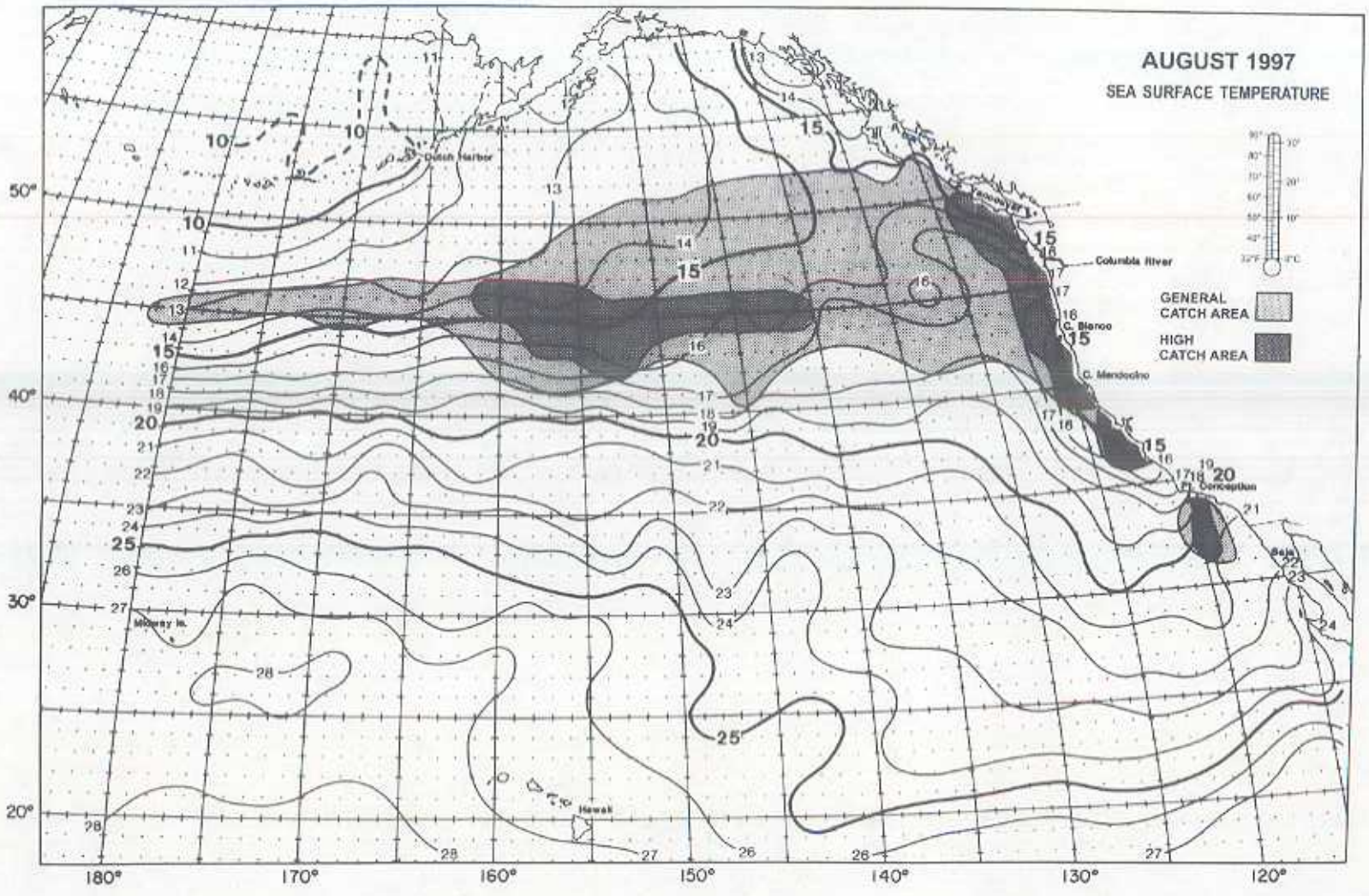

Figure 2d. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in August 1997.

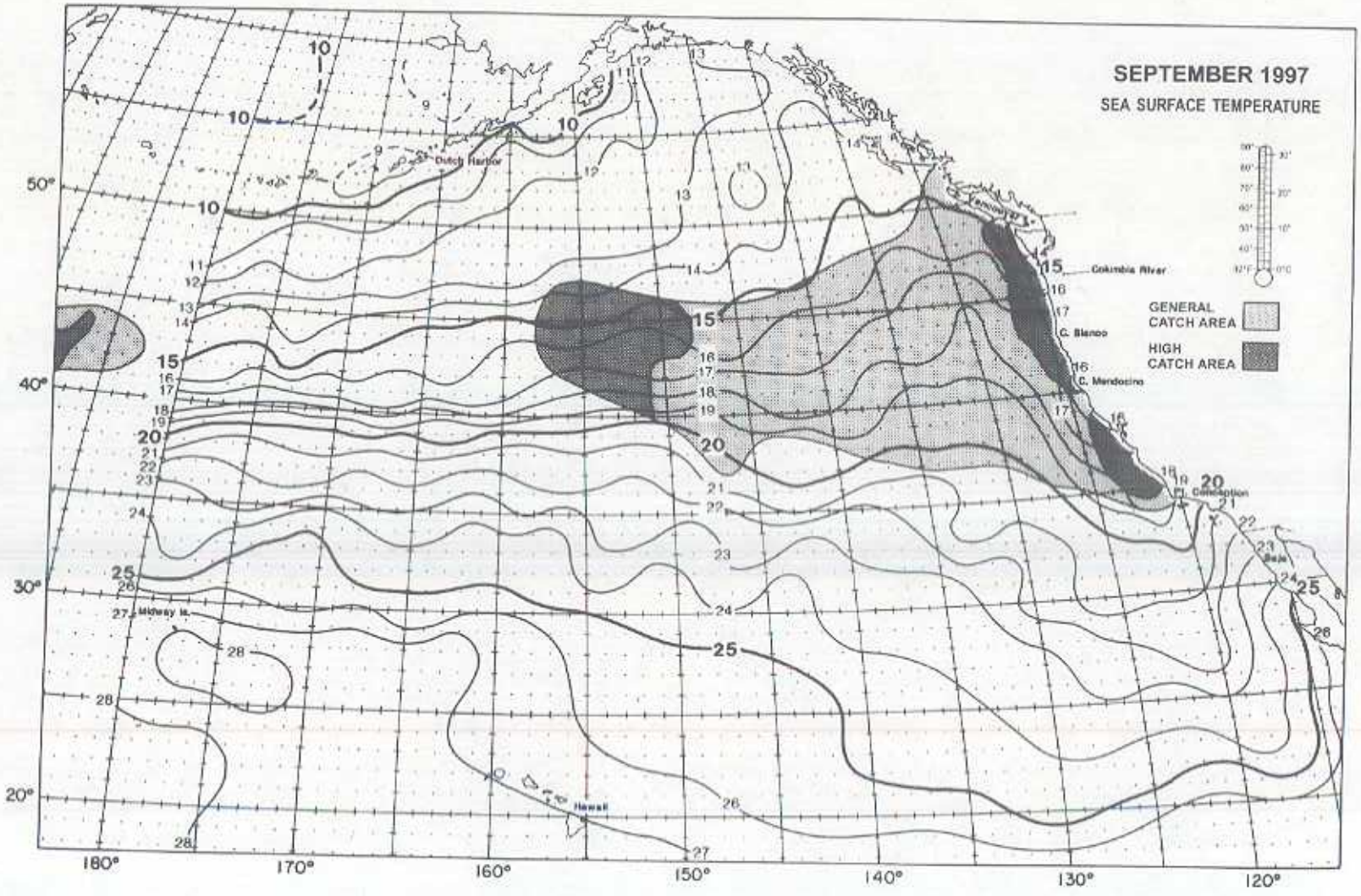

Figure 2e. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in September 1997.

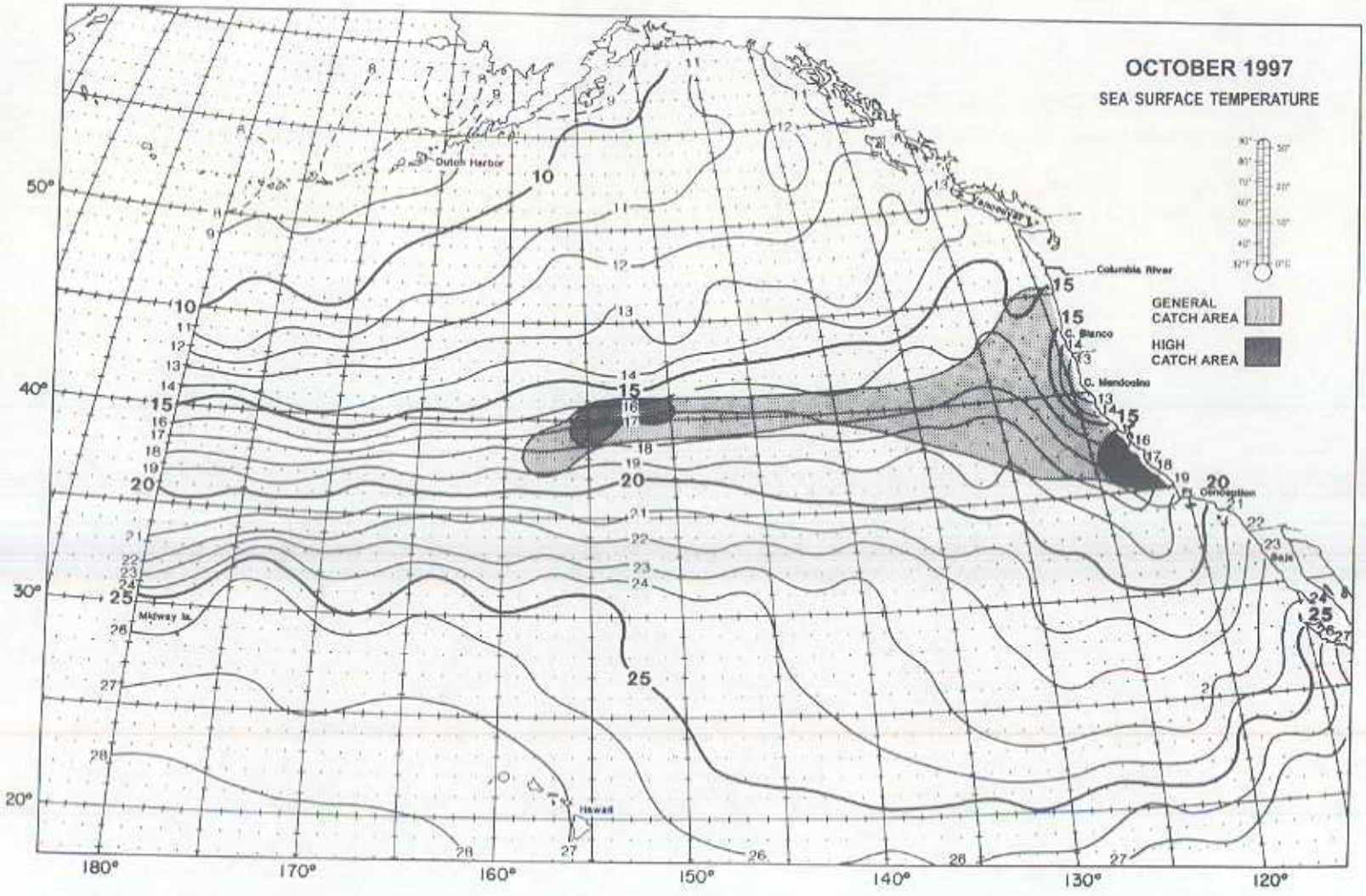

Figure 2f. Distribution of albacore catches and Sea Surface Temperatures in October 1997.

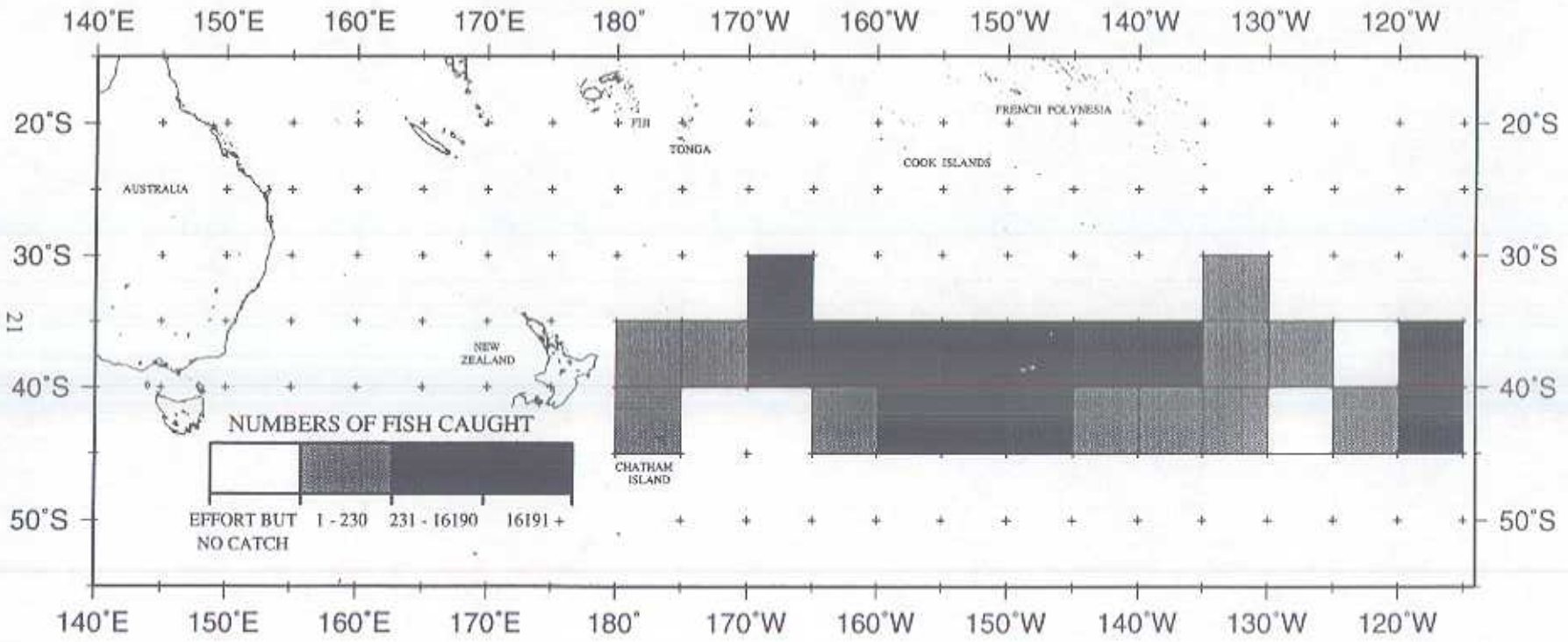

Figure 3a. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during the 1996-97 South Pacific season.

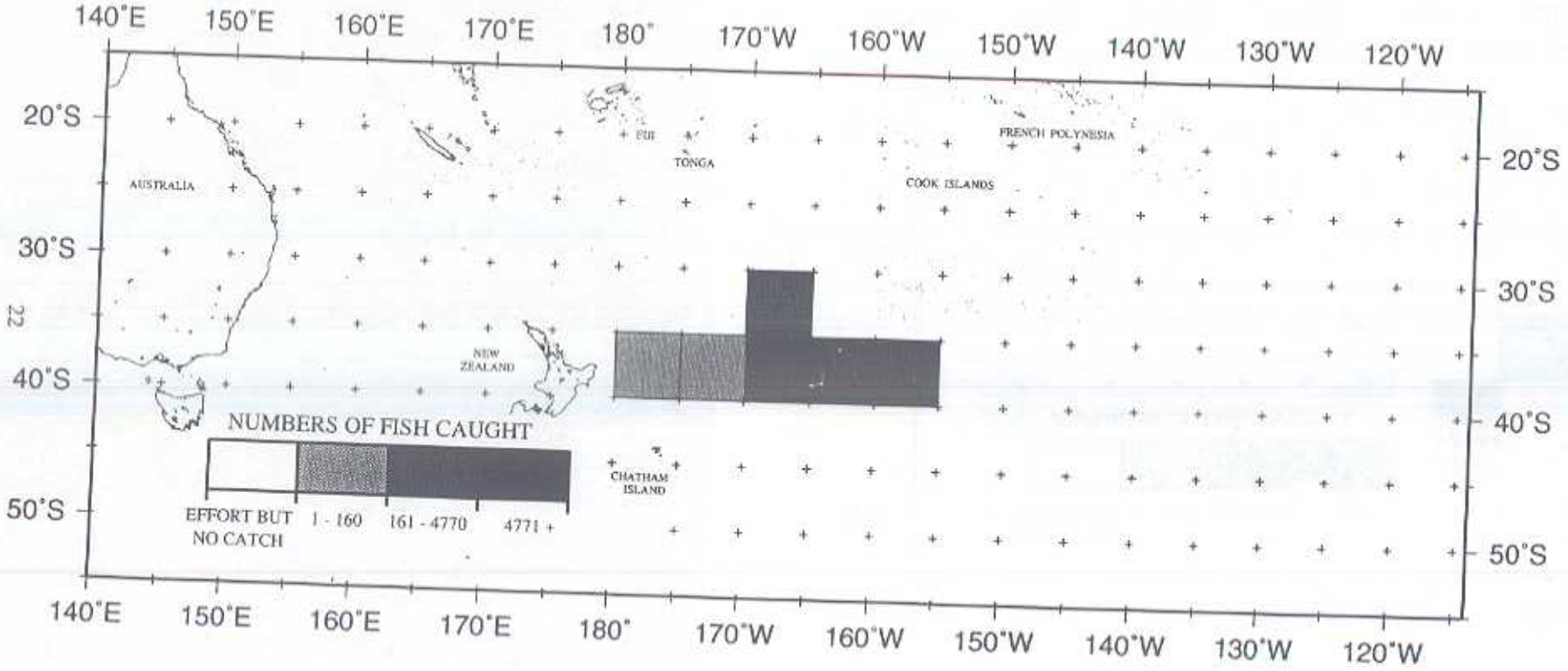

Figure 3b. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during December 1996.

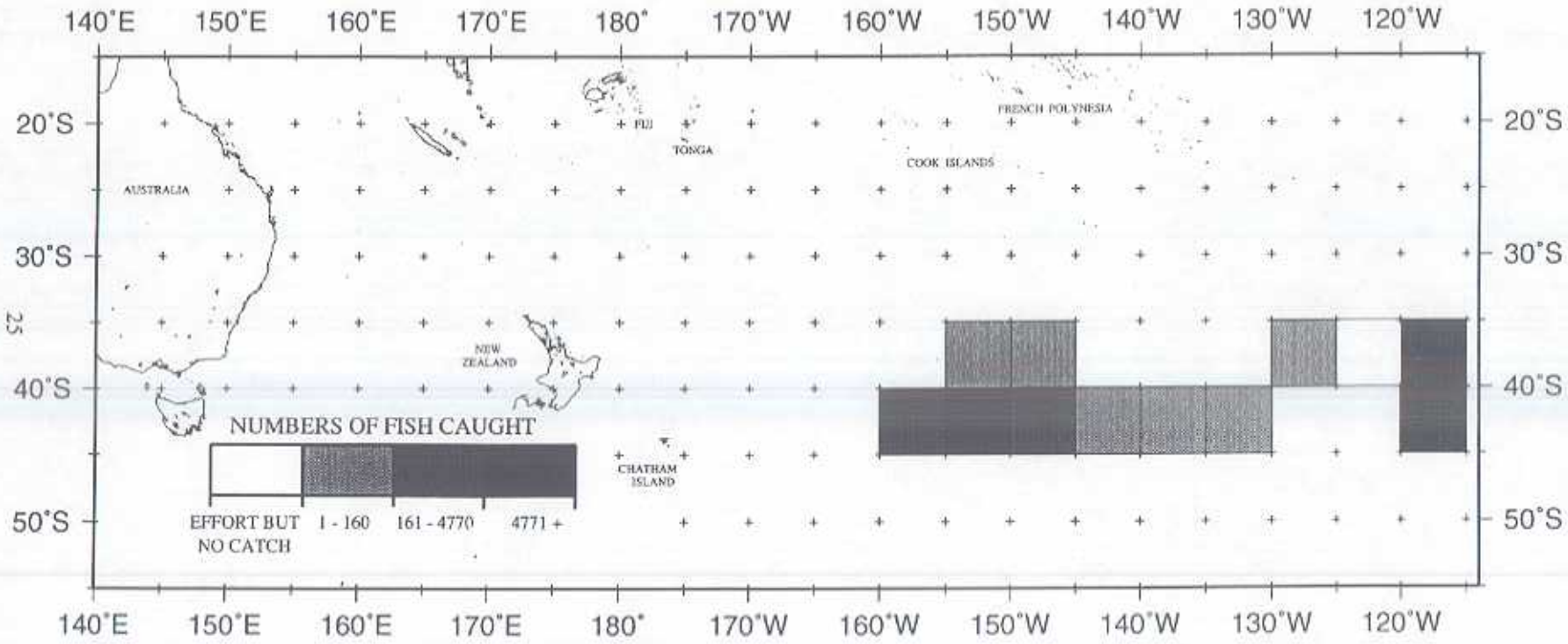

Figure 3e. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during March 1997.

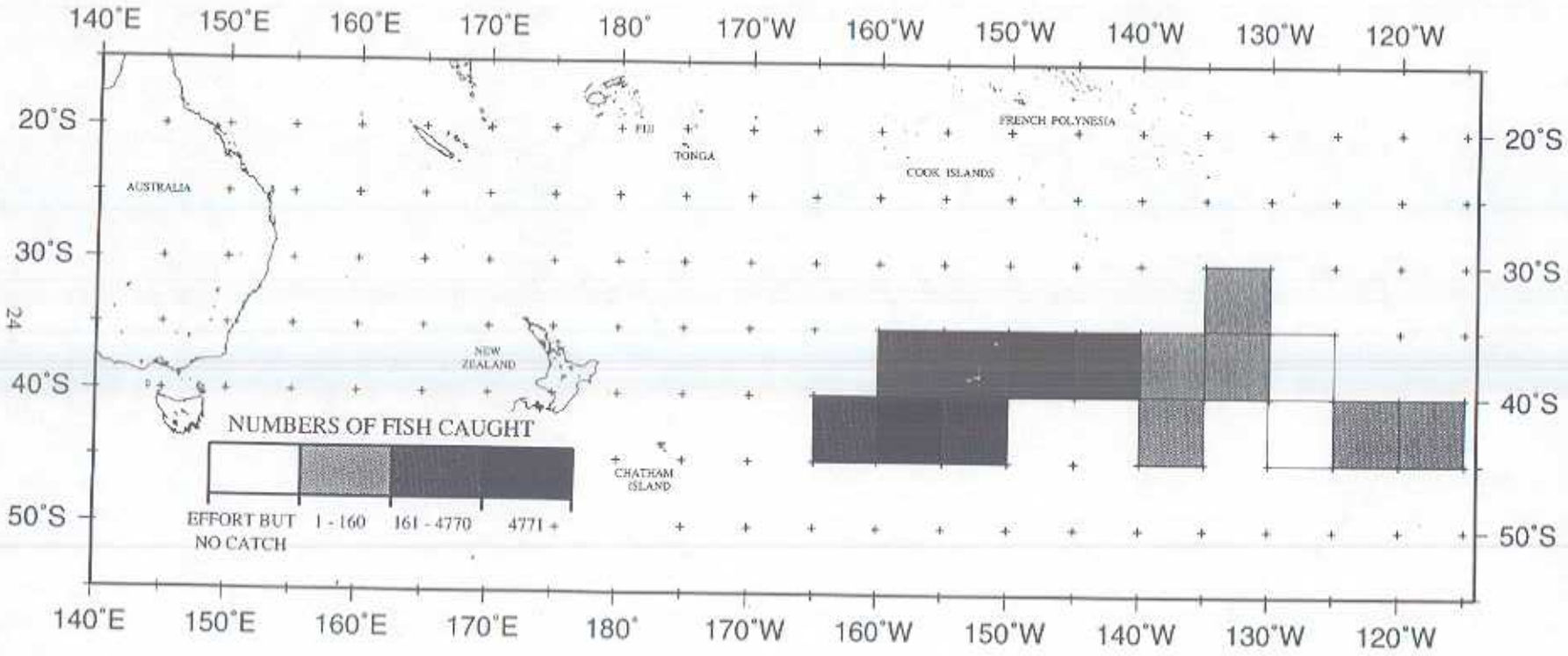

Figure 3d. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during February 1997.

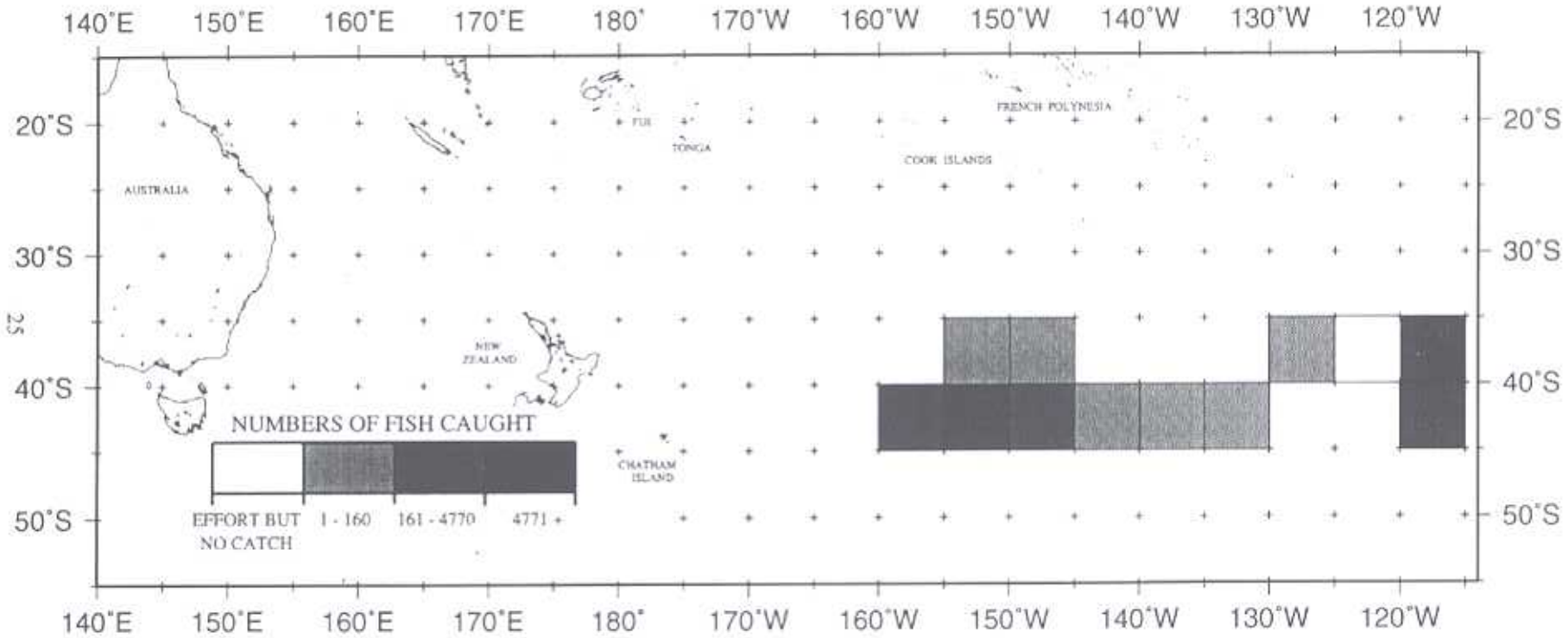

Figure 3e. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during March 1997.

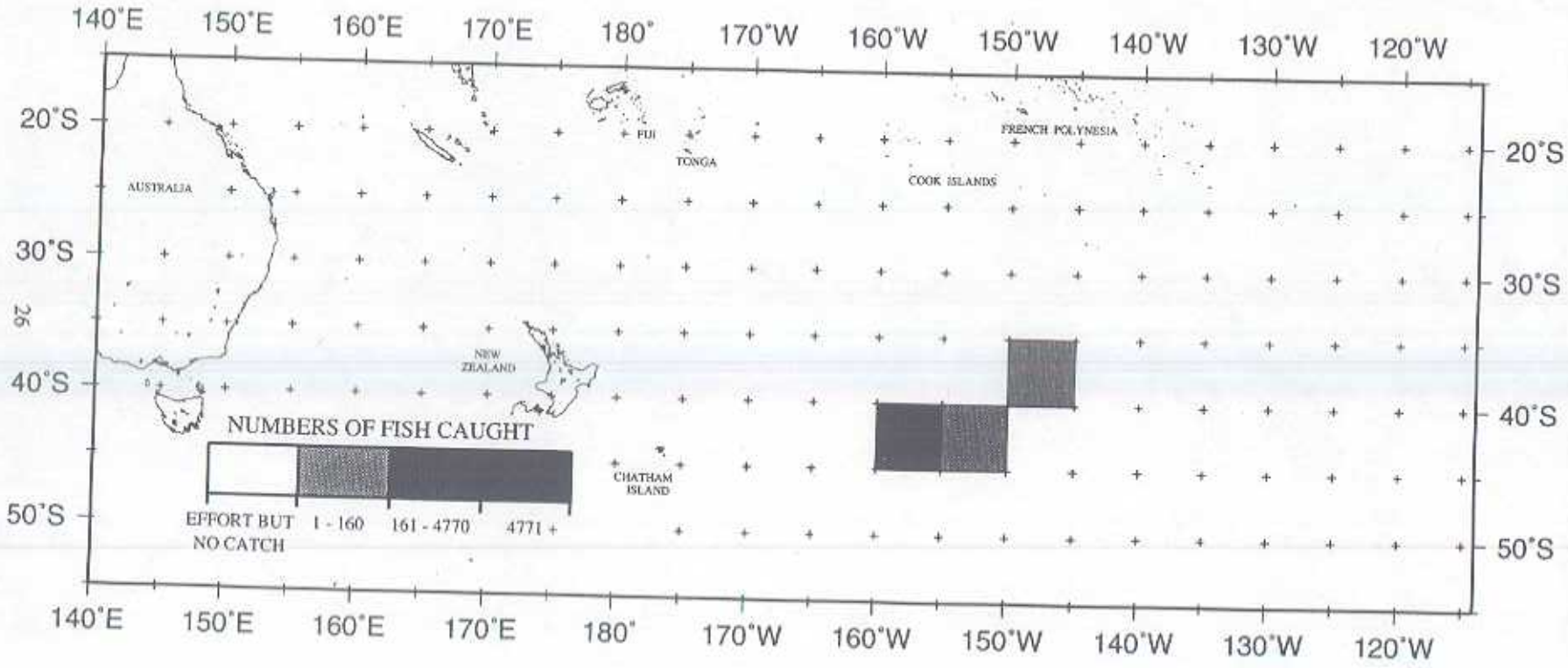

Figure 3f. Albacore catches by U.S. troll vessels during April 1997.

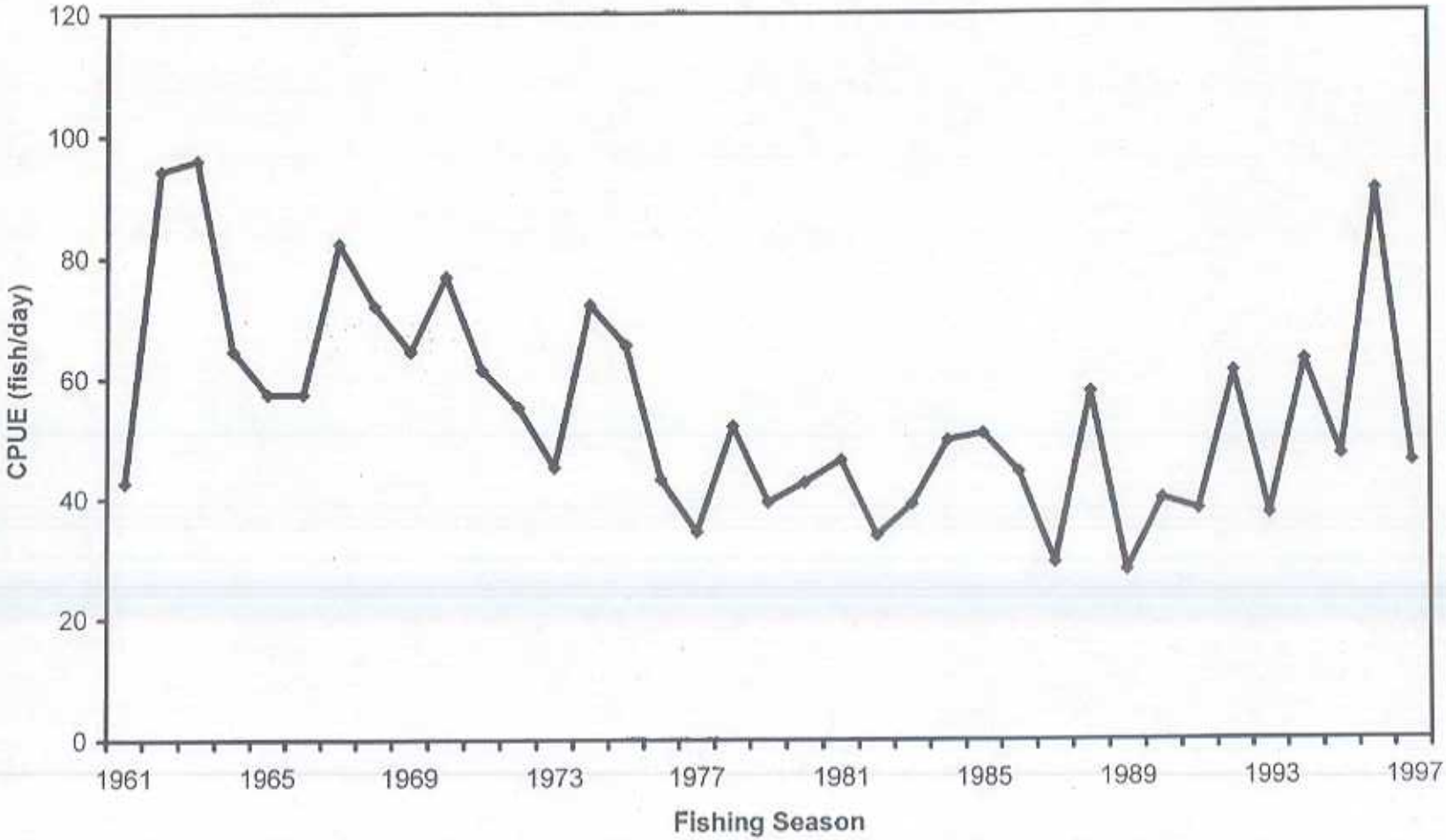

Figure 4. North Pacific Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels, 1961 through 1997.

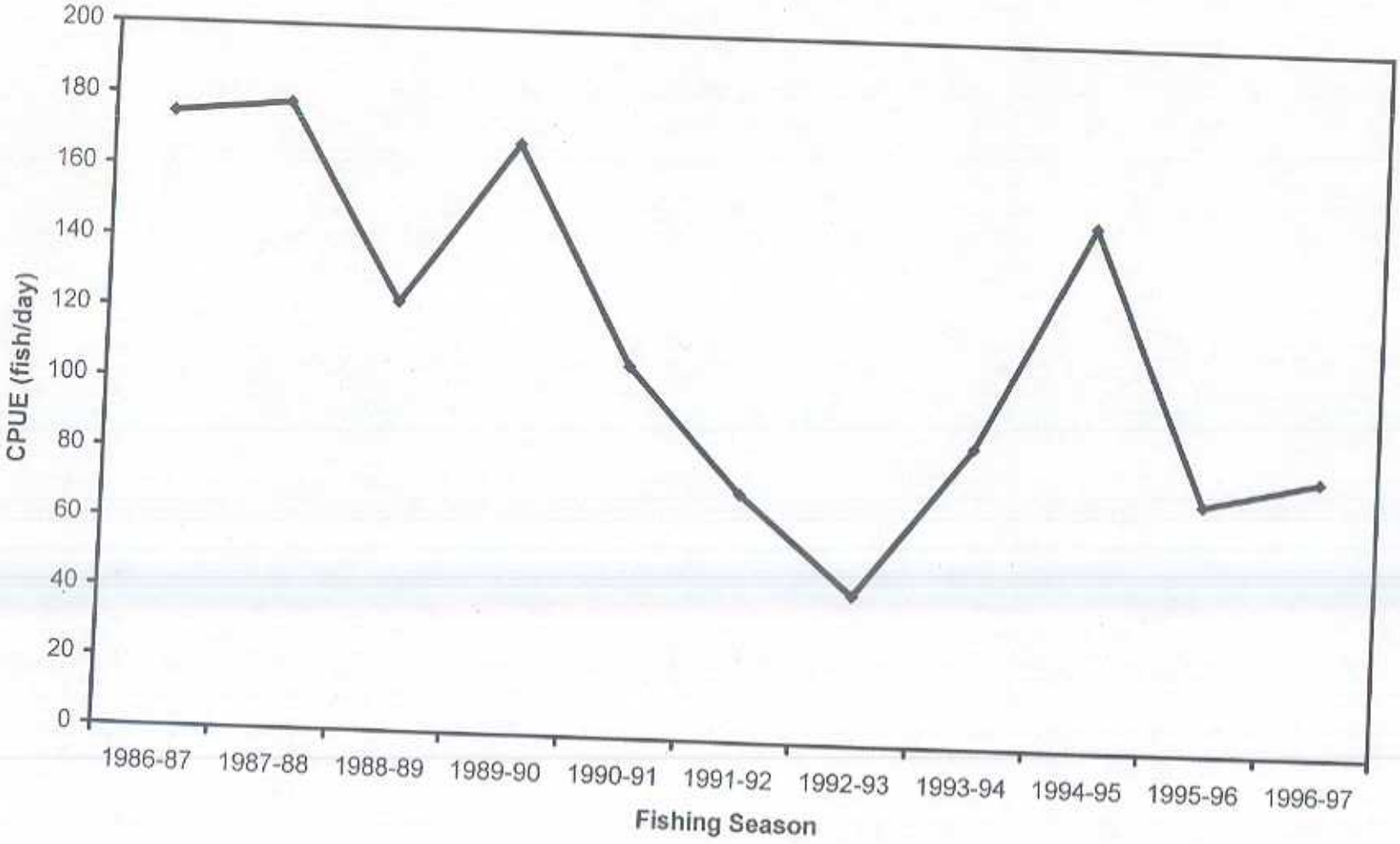

Figure 5. South Pacific Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels, 1986-87 through 1996-97.

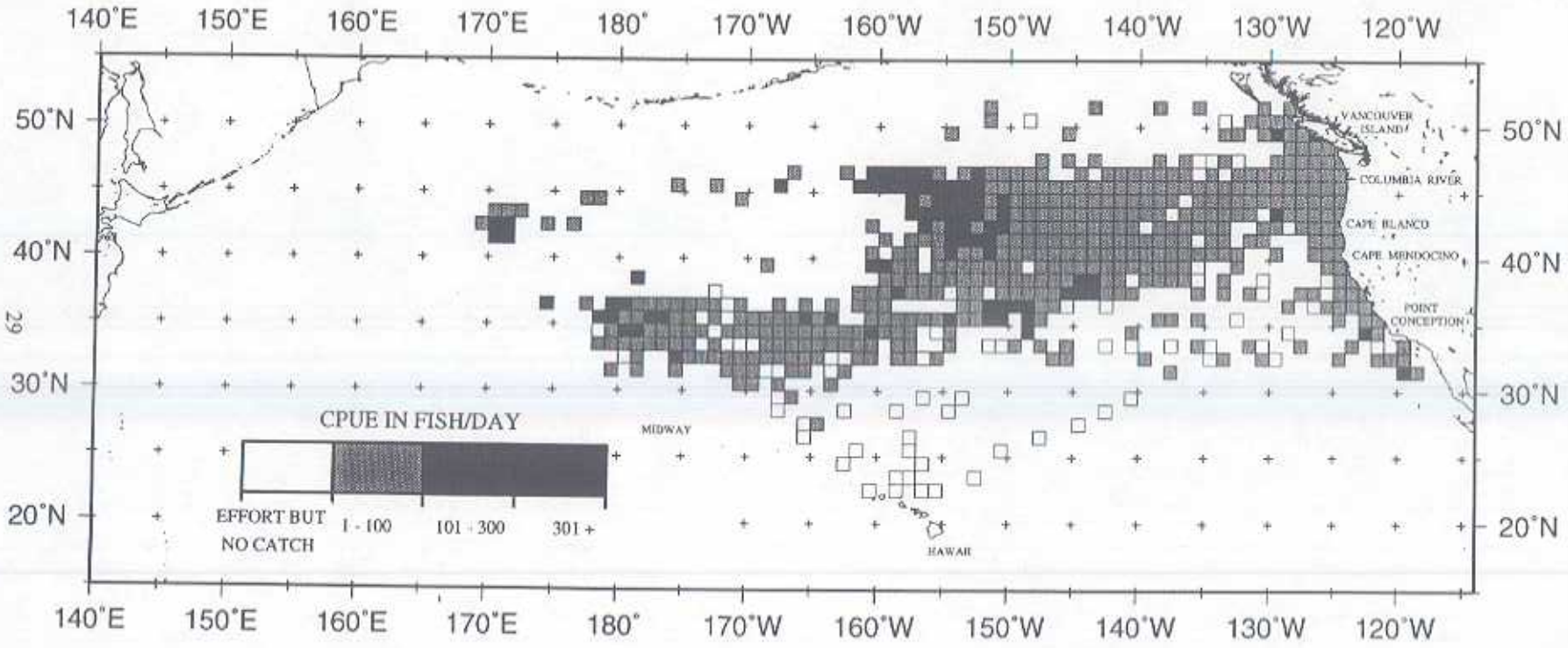

Figure 6a. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels during the 1997 North Pacific season.

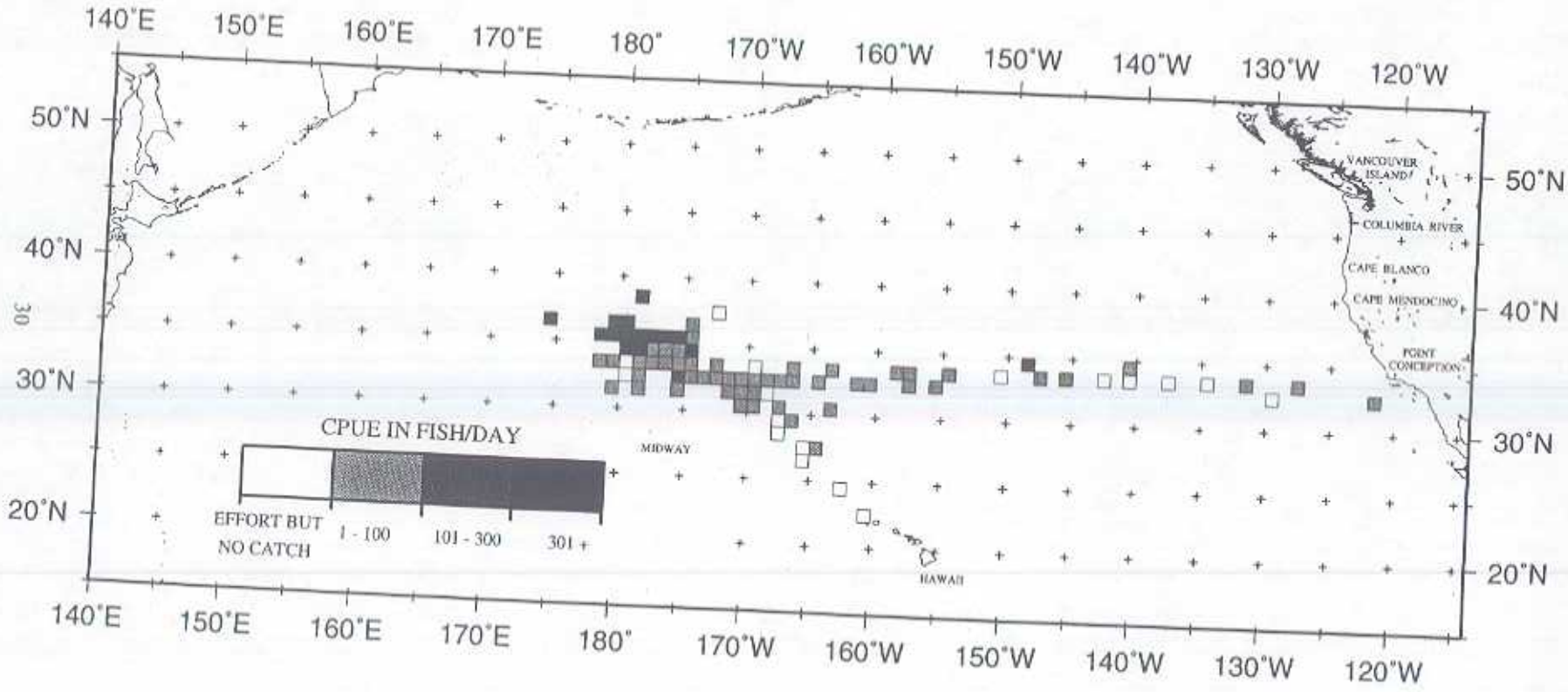

Figure 6b. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in May 1997.

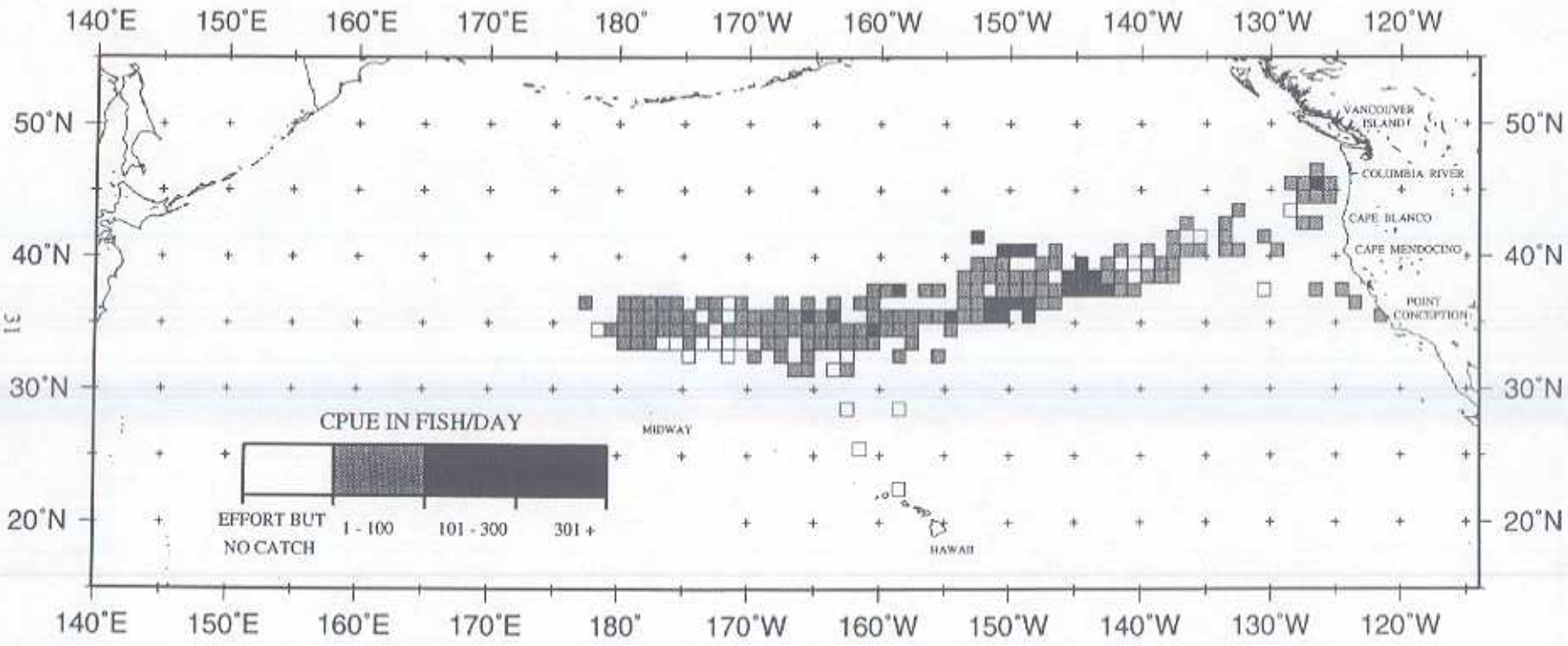

Figure 6c. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in June 1997.

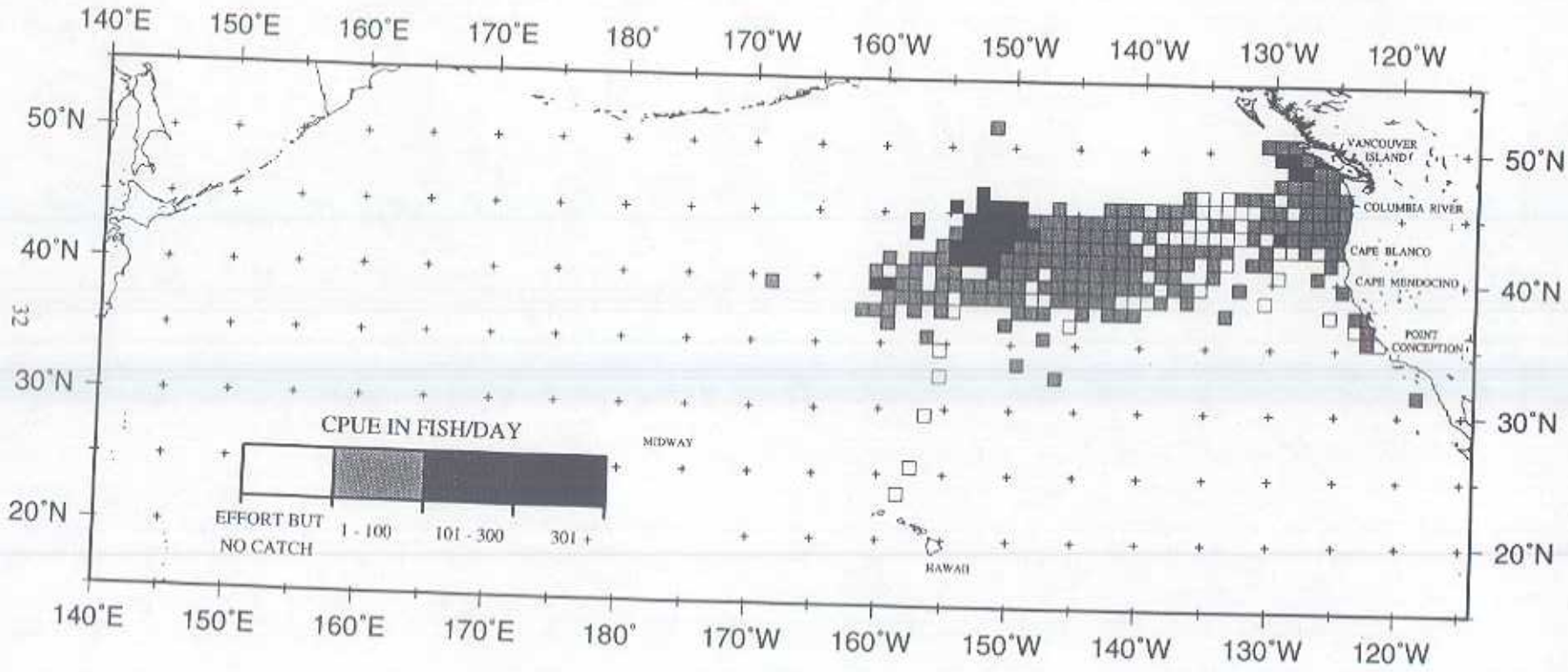

Figure 6d. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in July 1997.

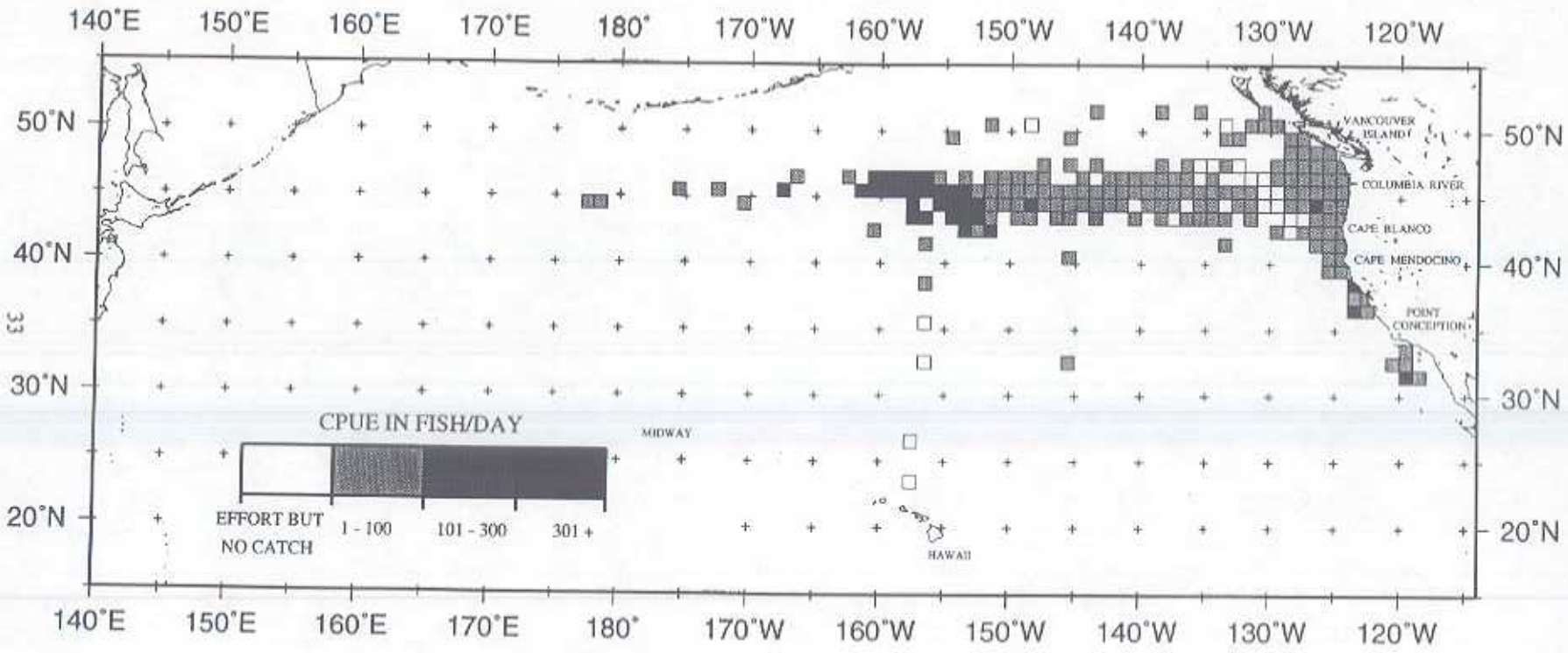

Figure 6e. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in August 1997.

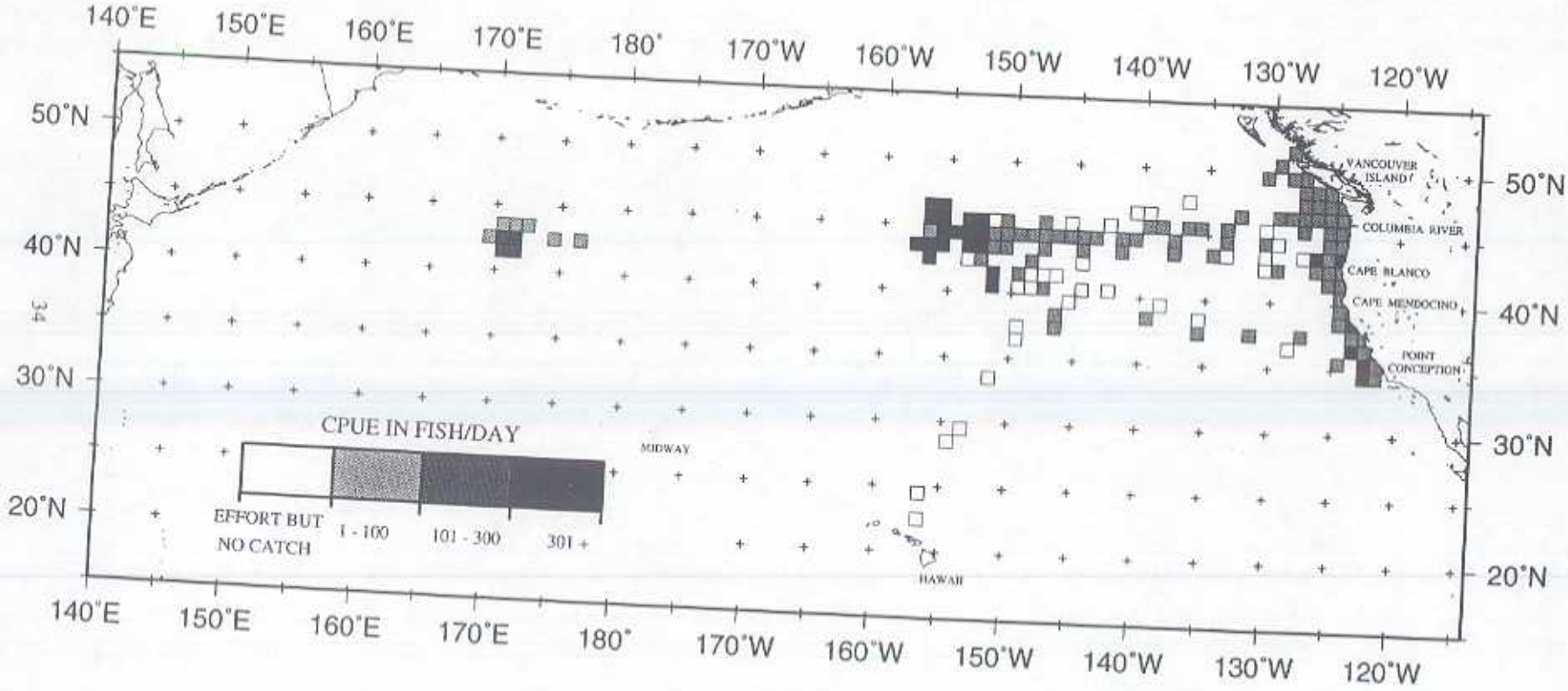

Figure 6f. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in September 1997.

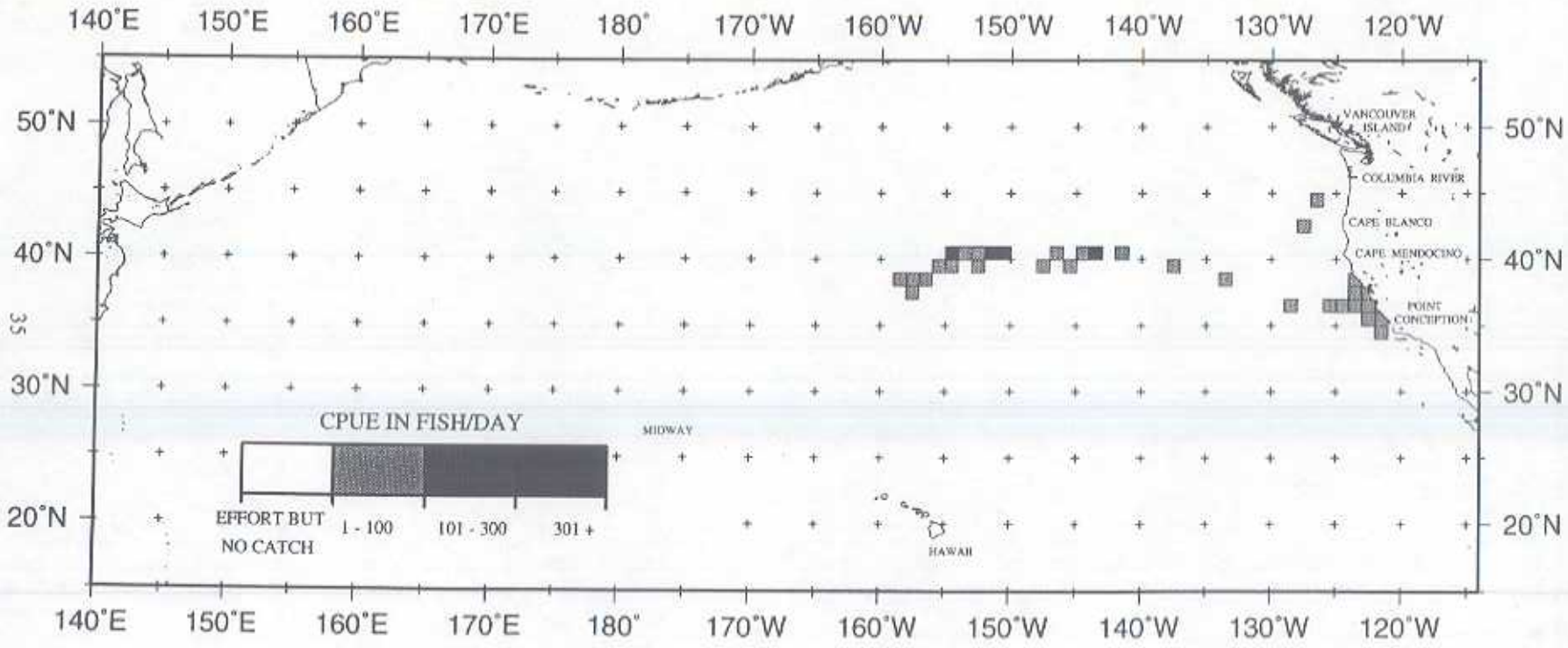

Figure 6g. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in October 1997.

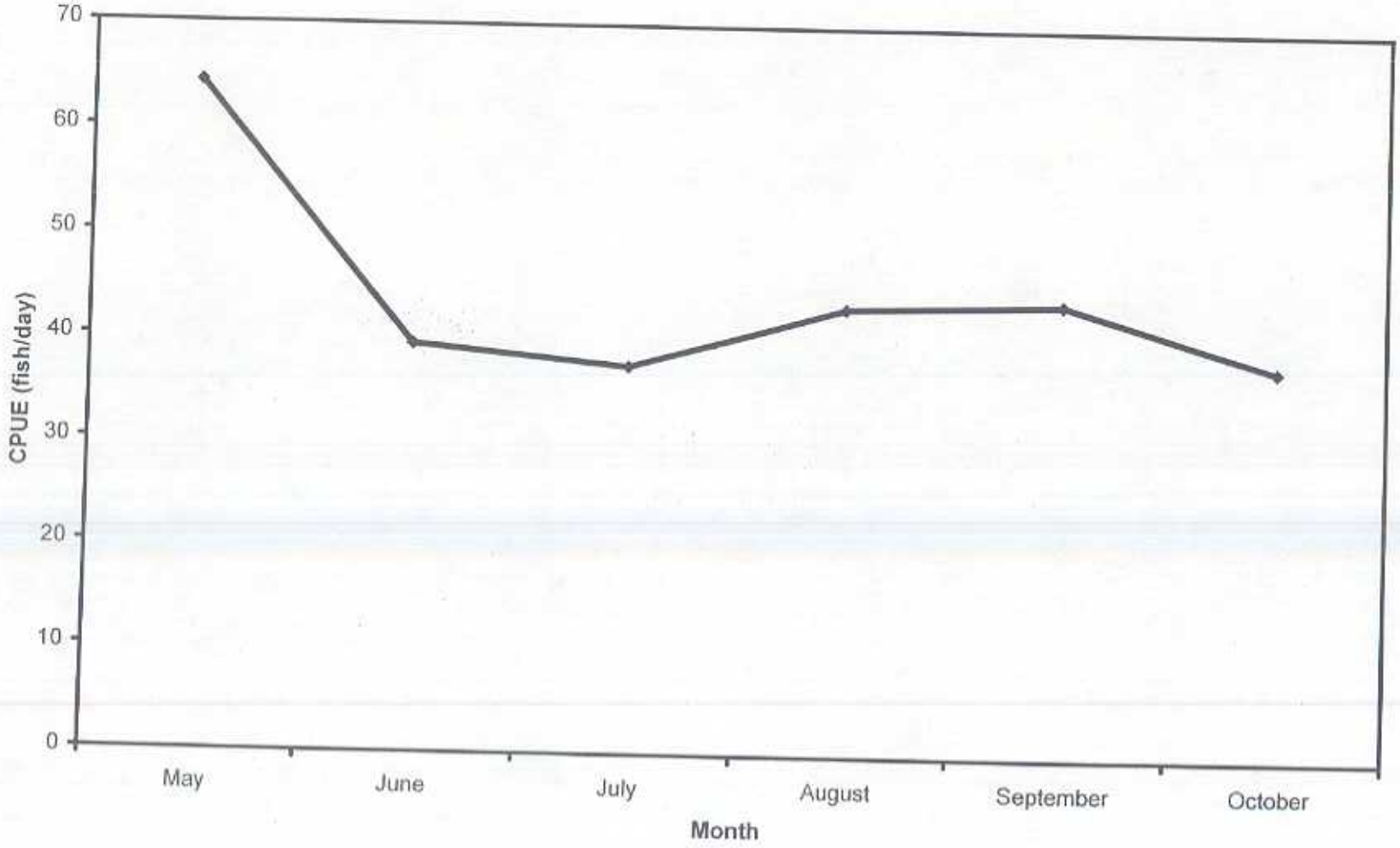

Figure 7. North Pacific Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels from May 1997 through October 1997.

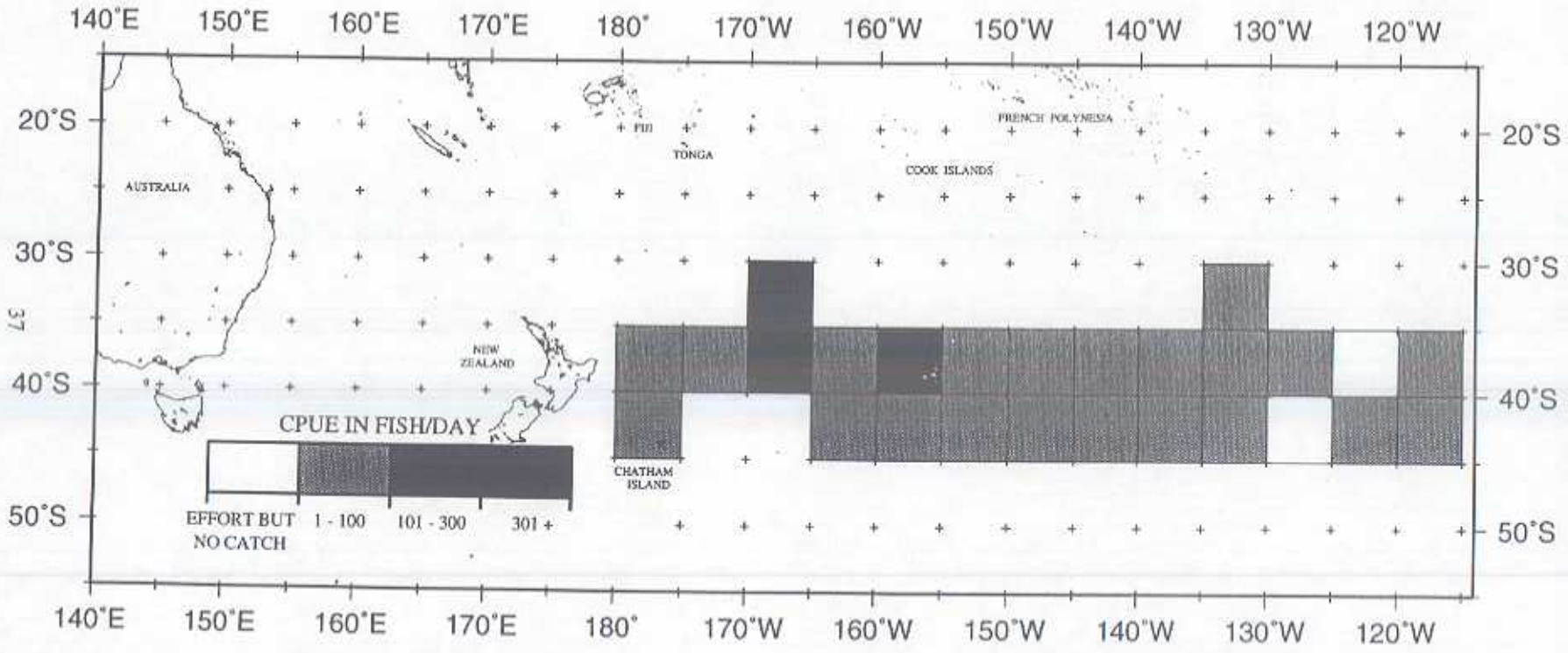

Figure 8a. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels during the 1996-97 South Pacific season.

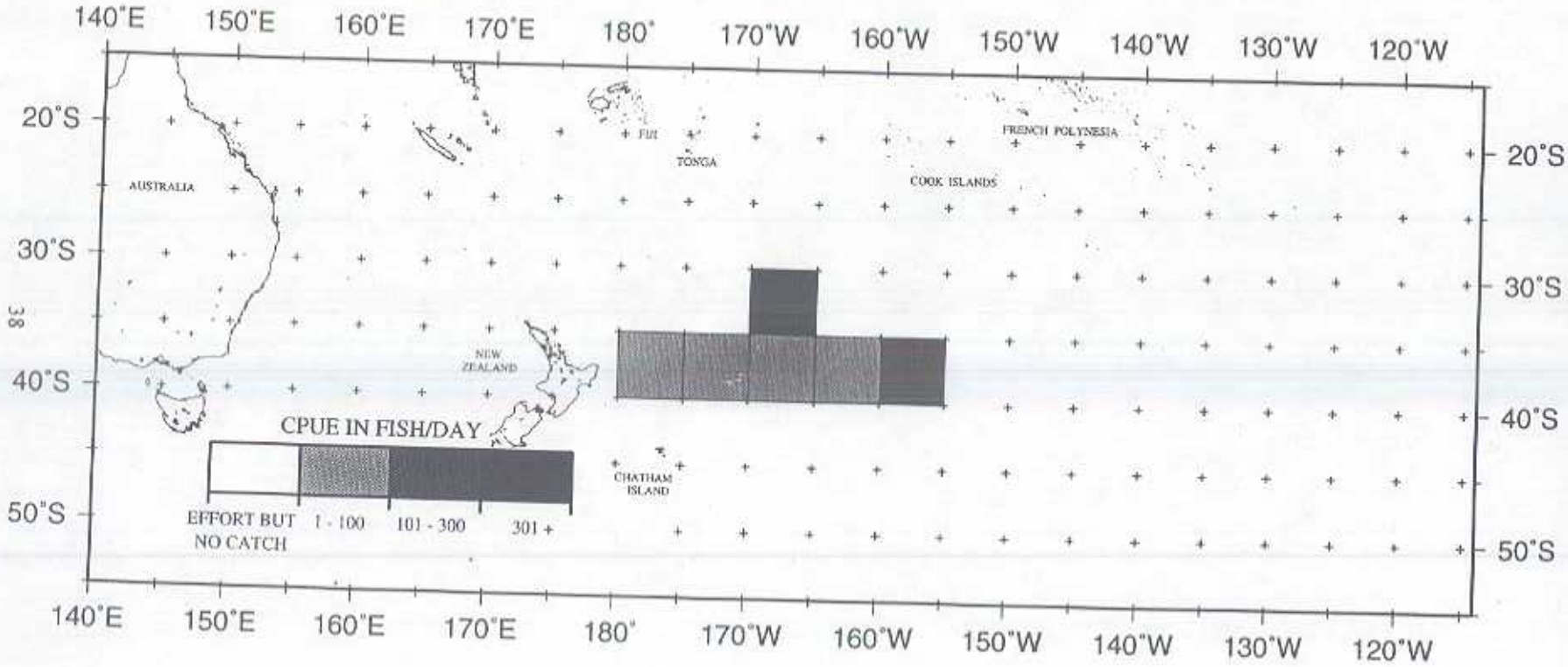

Figure 8b. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in December 1996.

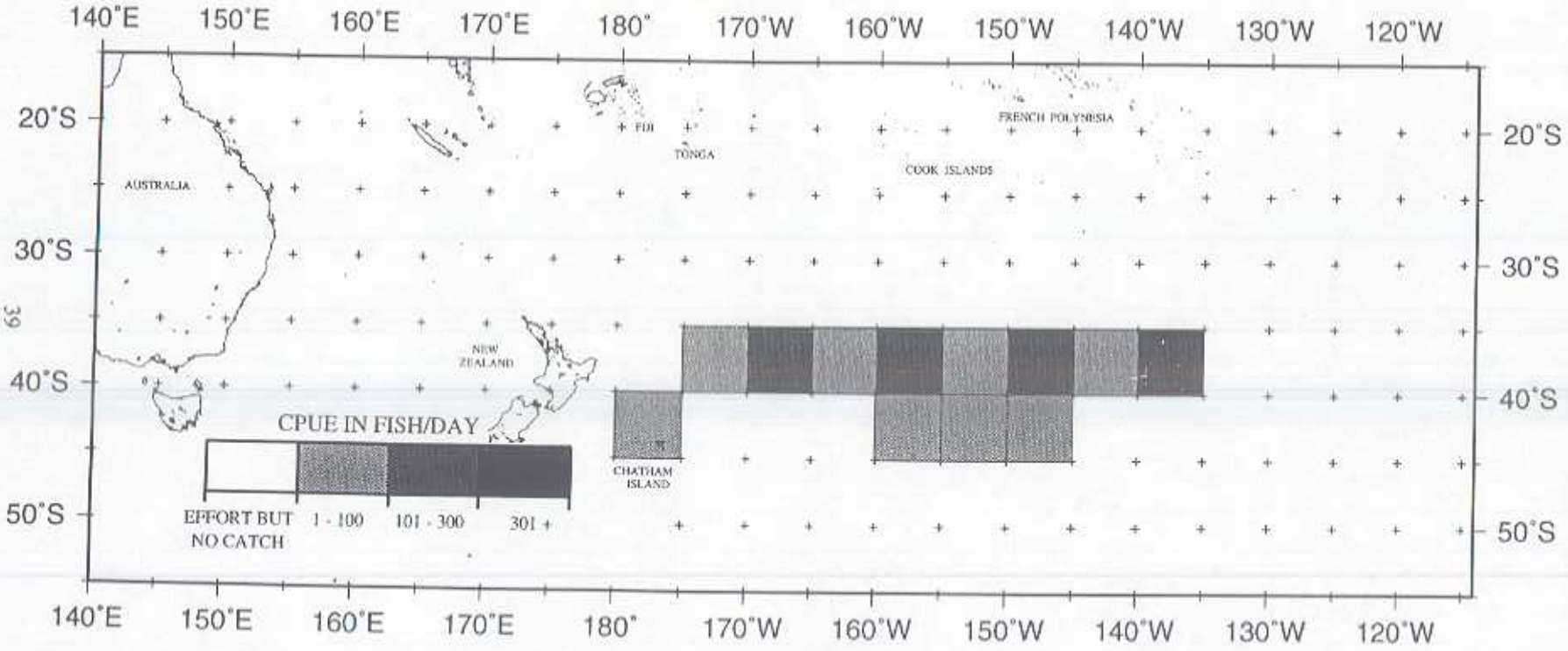

Figure 8c. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in January 1997.

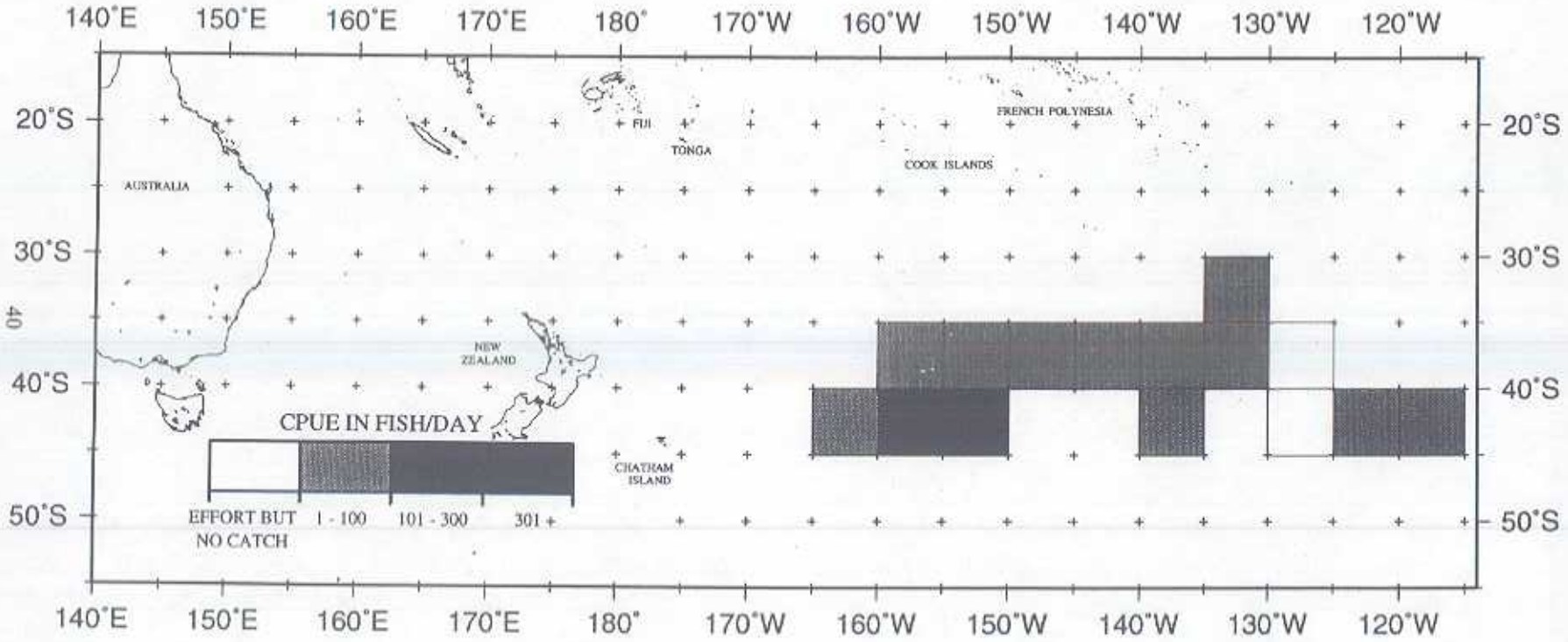

Figure 8d. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in February 1997.

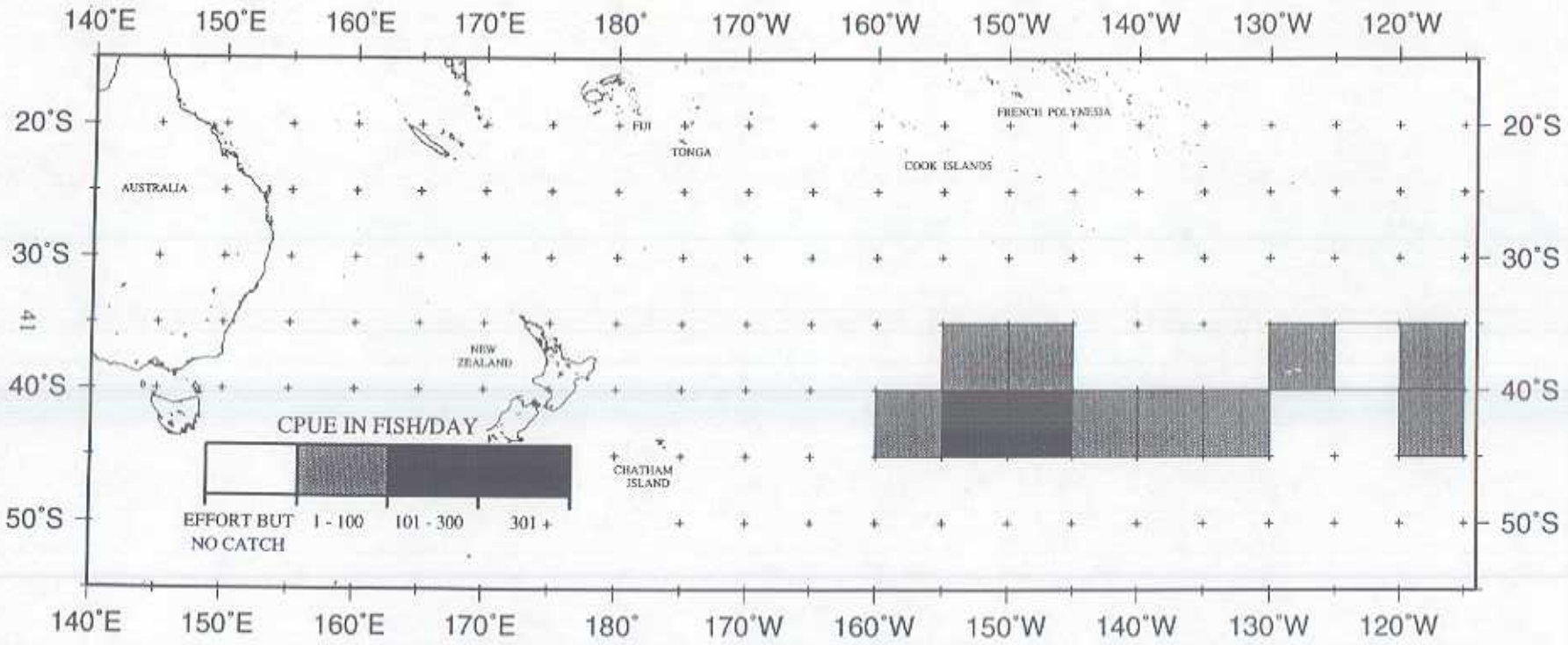

Figure 8e. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in March 1997.

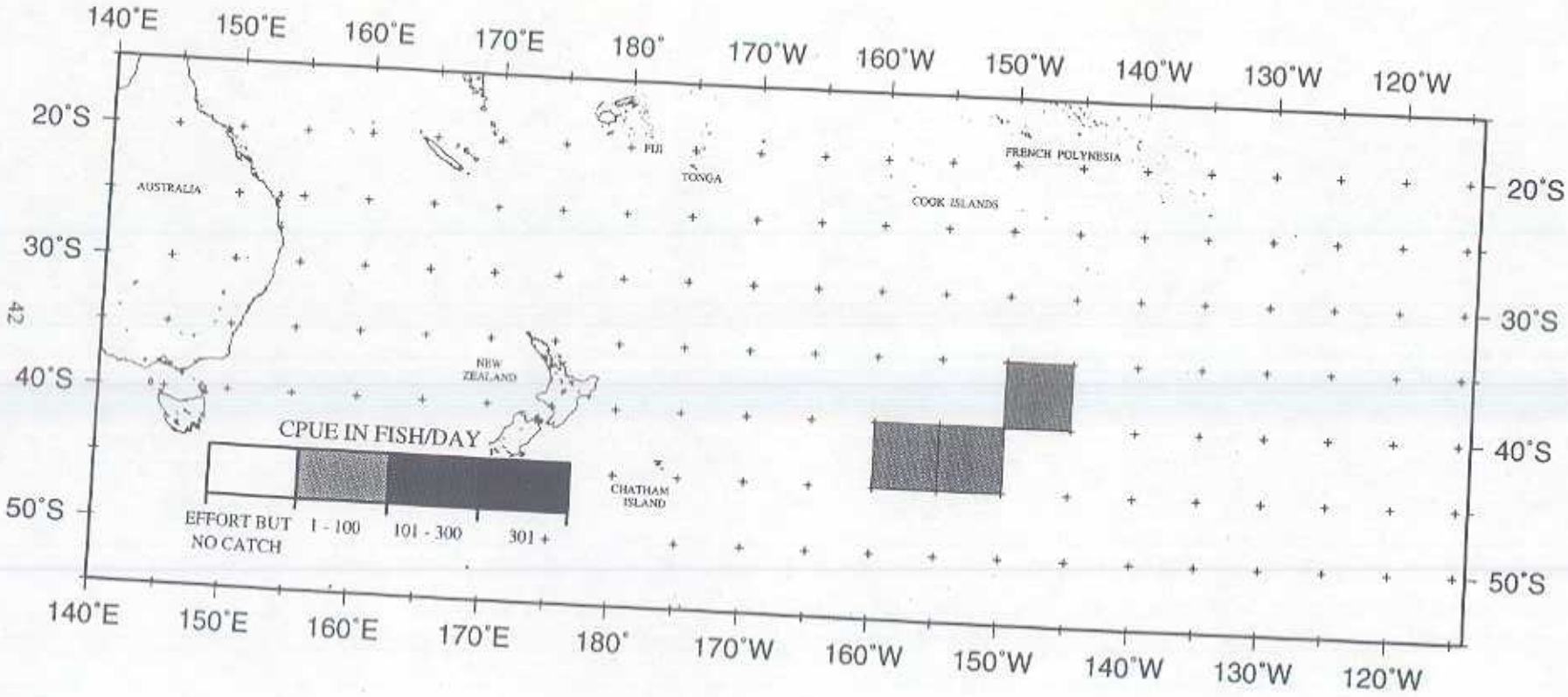

Figure 8f. Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels in April 1997.

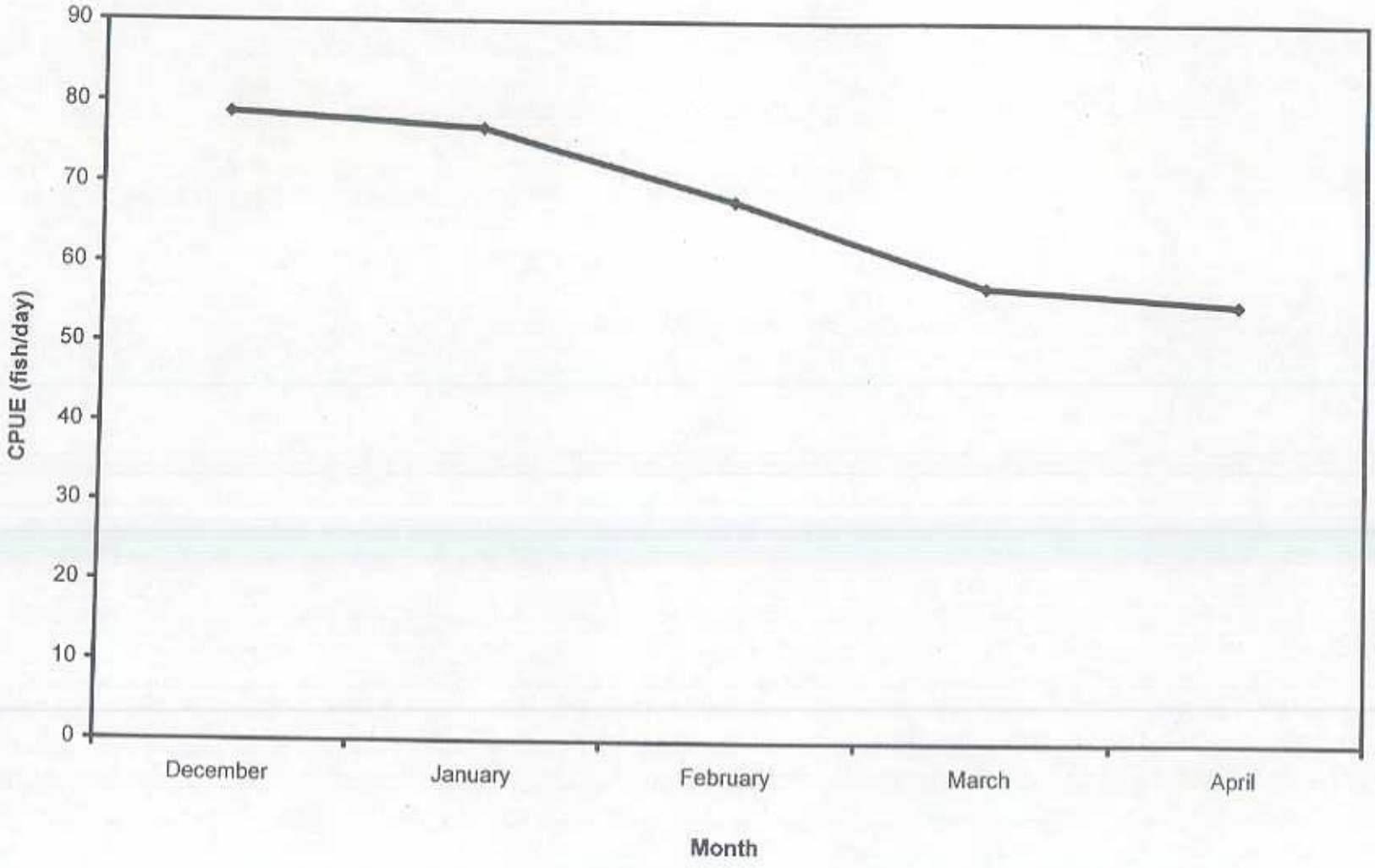

Figure 9. South Pacific Albacore CPUEs by U.S. troll vessels from December 1996 through April 1997.

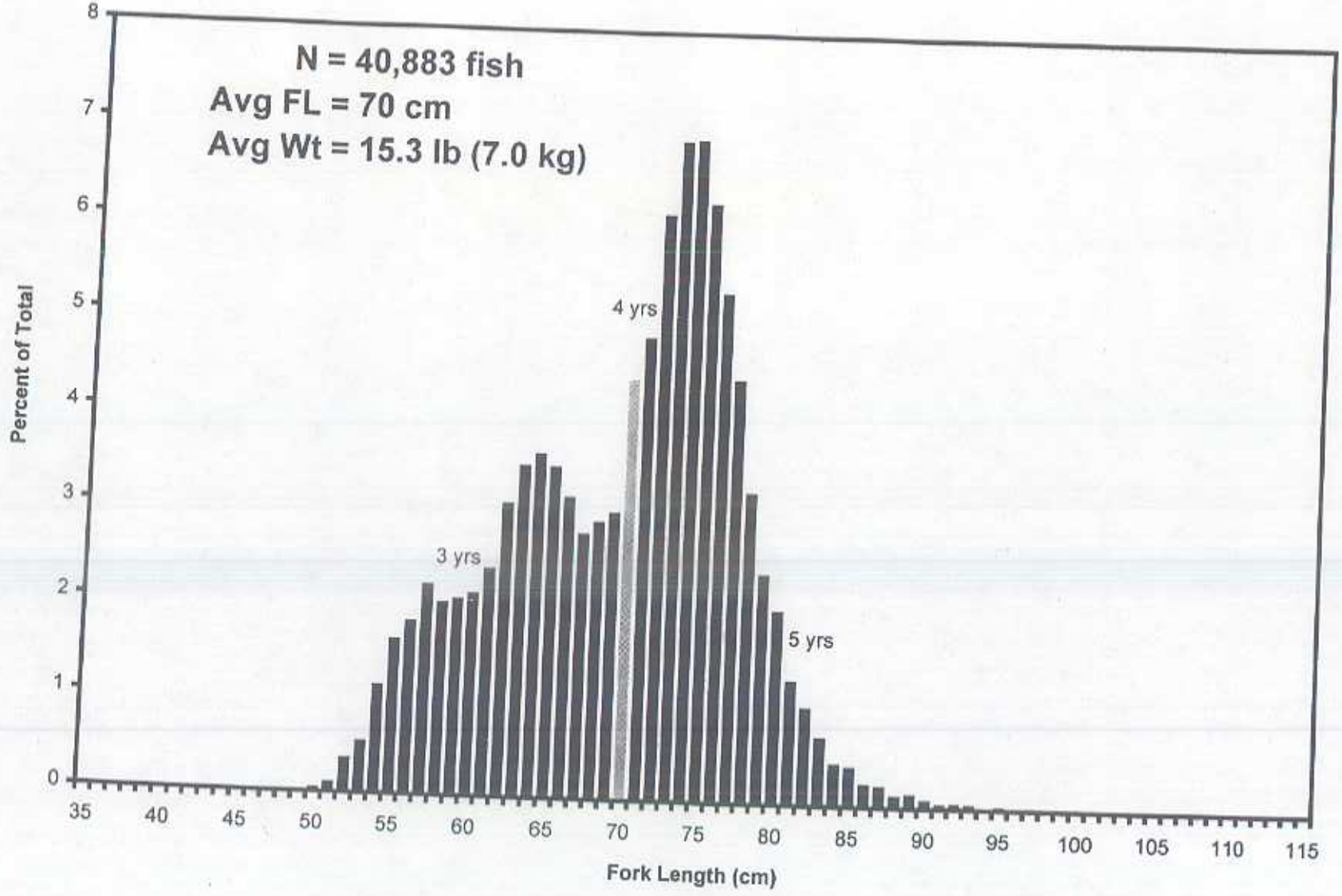

Figure 10. Length-frequency histogram of North Pacific albacore caught by U.S. troll vessels during the 1997 season.

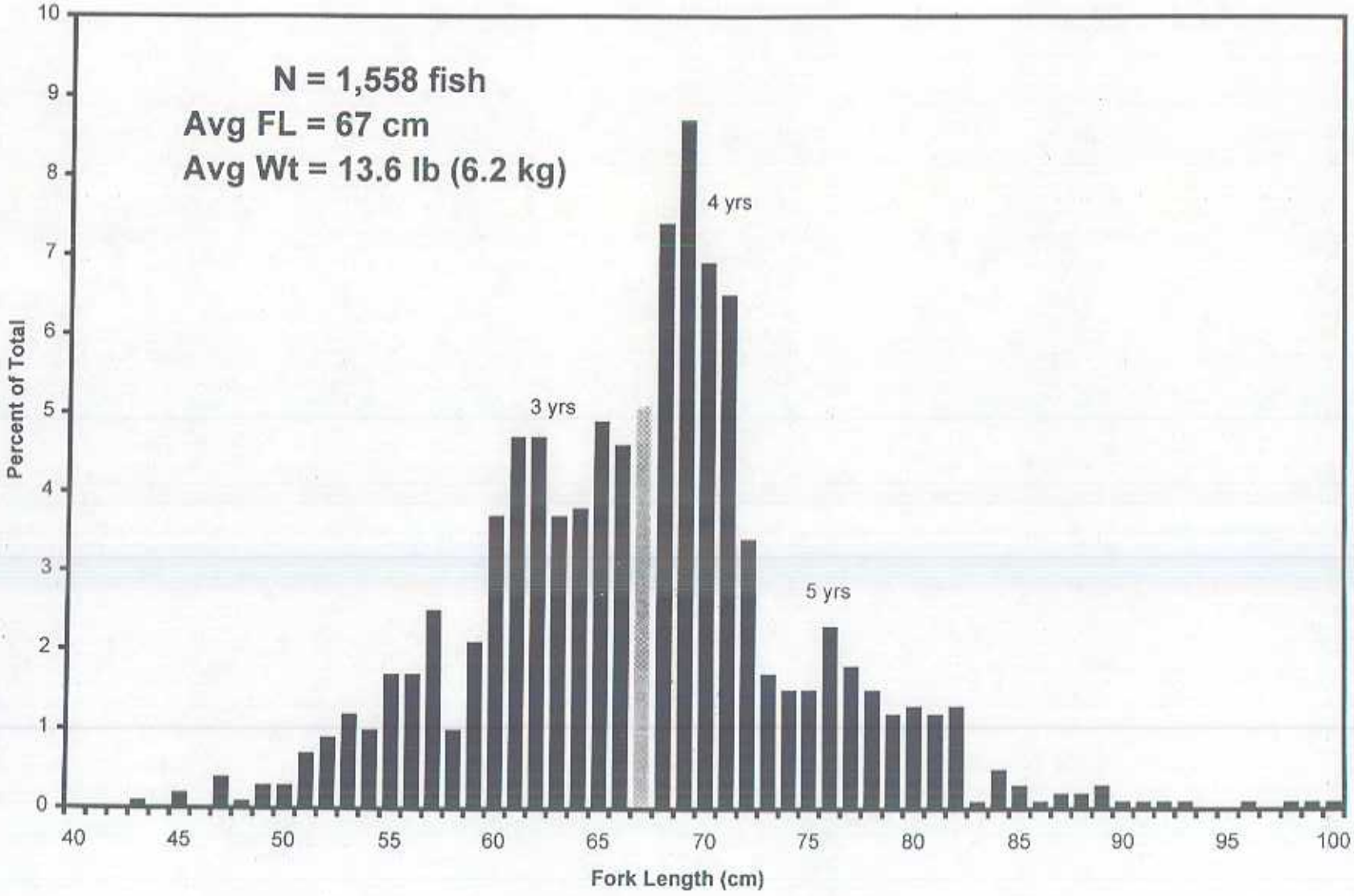

Figure 11. Length-frequency histogram of South Pacific albacore caught by U.S. troll vessels during the 1996-97 season.